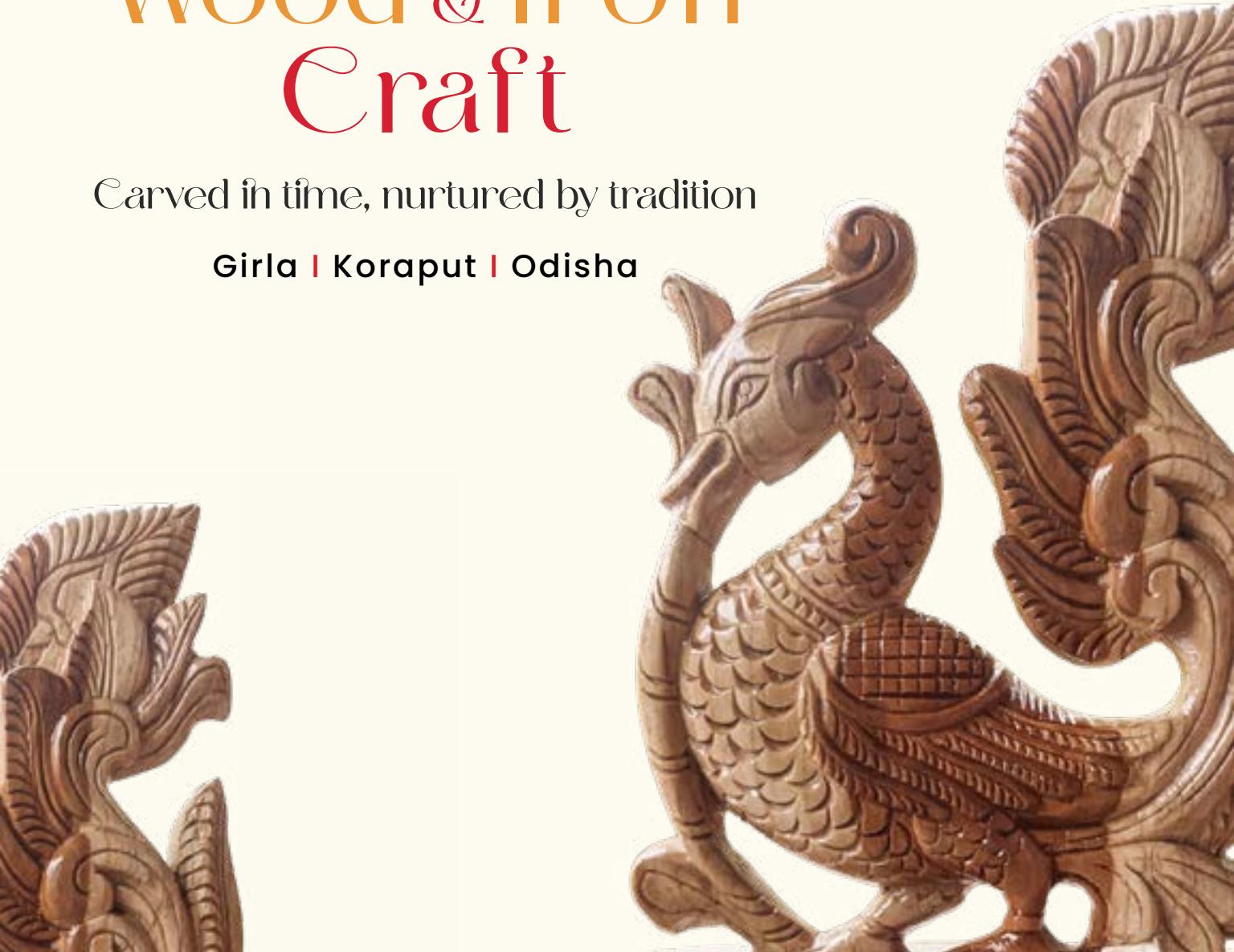


# Wood & Iron Craft

Carved in time, nurtured by tradition

Girla | Koraput | Odisha



# Roots to Prosperity



“

Art is not a mirror held up to reality but a hammer with which to shape it.

— Bertolt Brecht

‘Roots to Prosperity’ is a transformative journey led by Contact Base and supported by Axis Bank Foundation. The initiative aspires to empower traditional cultural practitioners as confident cultural entrepreneurs, while strengthening the ecosystem of heritage-based tourism. It works across the districts of Koraput and Mayurbhanj in Odisha, and Seraikela-Kharsawan in Jharkhand—regions endowed with natural beauty and deep reservoirs of indigenous artistry and living traditions.

Across these culturally rich landscapes, the project walks alongside more than 5,500 rural creative practitioners. It supports them to refine skills, access markets directly, build strong community-led enterprises, and shape vibrant cultural tourism experiences. At its core, the initiative recognises that culture is more than memory—it is identity, dignity, and possibility.

By strengthening grassroots creative economies, Roots to Prosperity fosters inclusive growth, sustainable livelihoods, and resilient communities. The initiative seeks to affirm culture as a pathway to empowerment – where inherited wisdom nurtures confidence, resilience, and a more secure future for communities.

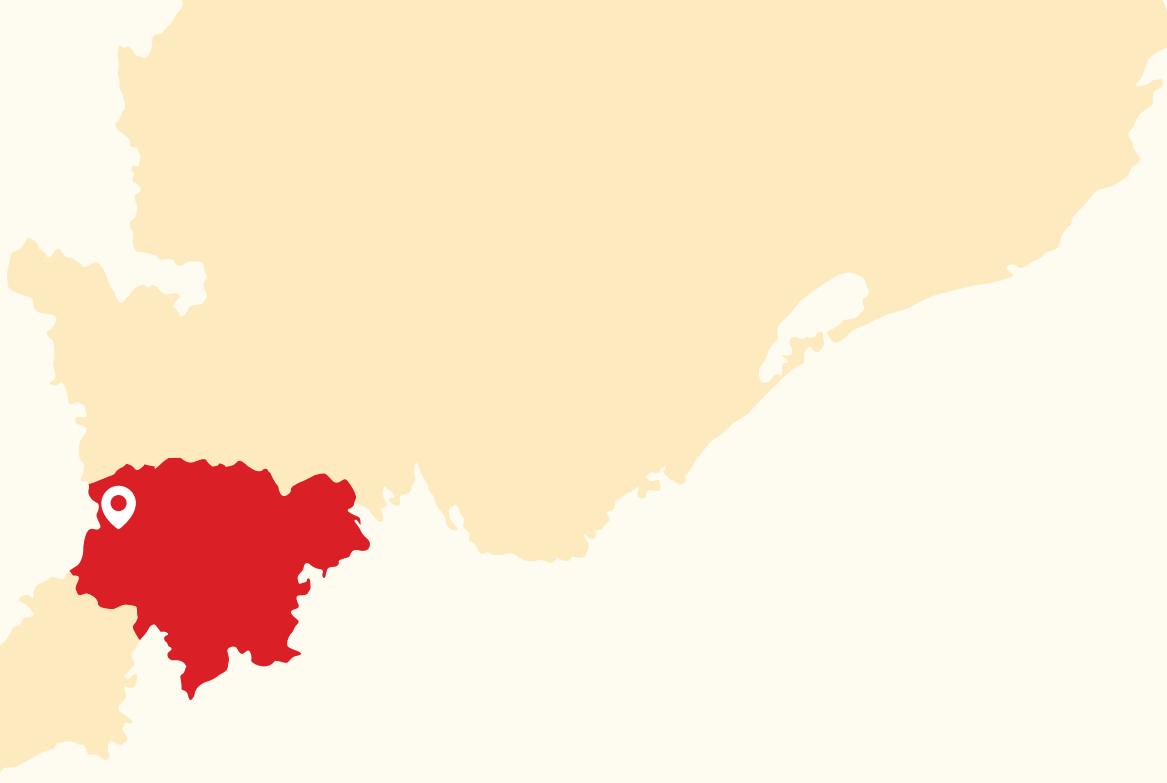
This brochure presents wood craft tradition of Girma, highlighting the exquisite craftsmanship of the artists of Koraput.



## About the Craft

Woodcarving is a long-standing craft practiced across India for both functional and decorative use. In Girla village of Odisha, this tradition has been carried forward by artisan families for over two decades, reflecting continuity, skill, and cultural knowledge passed down through generations.

Rooted in the tribal regions of Koraput, Girla woodcraft draws on locally sourced wood and everyday experiences of forest life. Artisans carve religious figures, household objects, and utilitarian forms, combining practical needs with simple, detailed design. The craft reflects a close relationship with nature and community life, making Girla's woodcarving a living practice shaped by experience, heritage, and sustained livelihood.



# Location

Located in the Koraput district of southern Odisha, Girma village lies amidst forested landscapes and rolling hills that shape the region's tribal way of life. The village has emerged as a key centre for traditional woodcraft, where locally available timber is transformed into handcrafted utility and decorative objects.

Block: Kotpad

District: Koraput



Village: Girma

Wood & Iron Craft | Girma

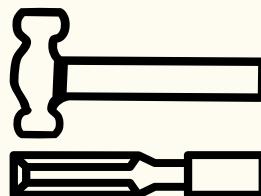


## How To Reach

Koraput is well connected by road, rail, and air. The nearest airports are at Jeypore (around 20 km from Koraput), Jagdalpur (98 km from Koraput) and Visakhapatnam (about 200 km from Koraput), offering convenient access from major cities. Regular buses and taxis connect Koraput with nearby towns like Rayagada, Nabarangpur, and Jagdalpur. The Koraput Railway Station lies on the East Coast line, making the journey scenic and comfortable.

# The Makers

Girla village has a number of skilled artisans engaged in traditional and contemporary woodcraft. The artists make intricately carved wooden artifacts, utility items, decorative pieces, furniture items, toys and sculptures. The artists make intricately carved wooden artifacts, utility items, decorative pieces.



Trinath Bindhani : 9565965692  
Lebo Bindhani: 9078599718  
Satyabati Bindhani: 9078259530



# Process

Wood & Iron Craft | Girla



1 Slicing & make the block



2 Drawing of design on the block



5 Iron structure has been made



6 Iron structure is added to the wood to finish the product



3 Carving out the details



4 Product has been sanded, polished, and coated with a wood polish



local wood carving tools

# Products

The artisans of Girla create a wide and versatile range of handcrafted wood products. Their work includes intricately carved furniture such as chairs, tables, cabinets, and stools, designed for everyday use. Alongside furniture, they produce tribal figurines and decorative home décor pieces, extending to hand-carved religious and artistic sculptures. In recent years, artisans have diversified further into wooden beaded jewellery and small utility items, adapting their skills to contemporary tastes while retaining the essence of Girla's carving heritage.



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Traditionally Designed Product



Table Decor



Wall hanging



Lamp shade



Candle holders

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Beaded Jewellery



# Roots to Prosperity

Contact Base has partnered with Axis Bank Foundation on the "Roots to Prosperity" project to enhance culture-based livelihoods of artists in Koraput.



 [indiahertiagehaat.com](http://indiahertiagehaat.com)

 [koraputlivingheritage.com](http://koraputlivingheritage.com)

 [Heritage4Prosperity](#)

 [heritage4prosperity@gmail.com](mailto:heritage4prosperity@gmail.com)

 [Heritage4Prosperity](#)

 + 91 33 40047484/ 8420106396