

MARGAZHI KOLAM: THE ART AT ITS BEST

CASE STUDY/INSIGHT

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The Tamil month of 'Margazhi' has its own speciality and significance in the Tamil tradition. Margazhi month comes during mid-December to mid-January. Margazhi Kolam is a predominant thing in this month. It is famous for its majestic and colourful artwork.

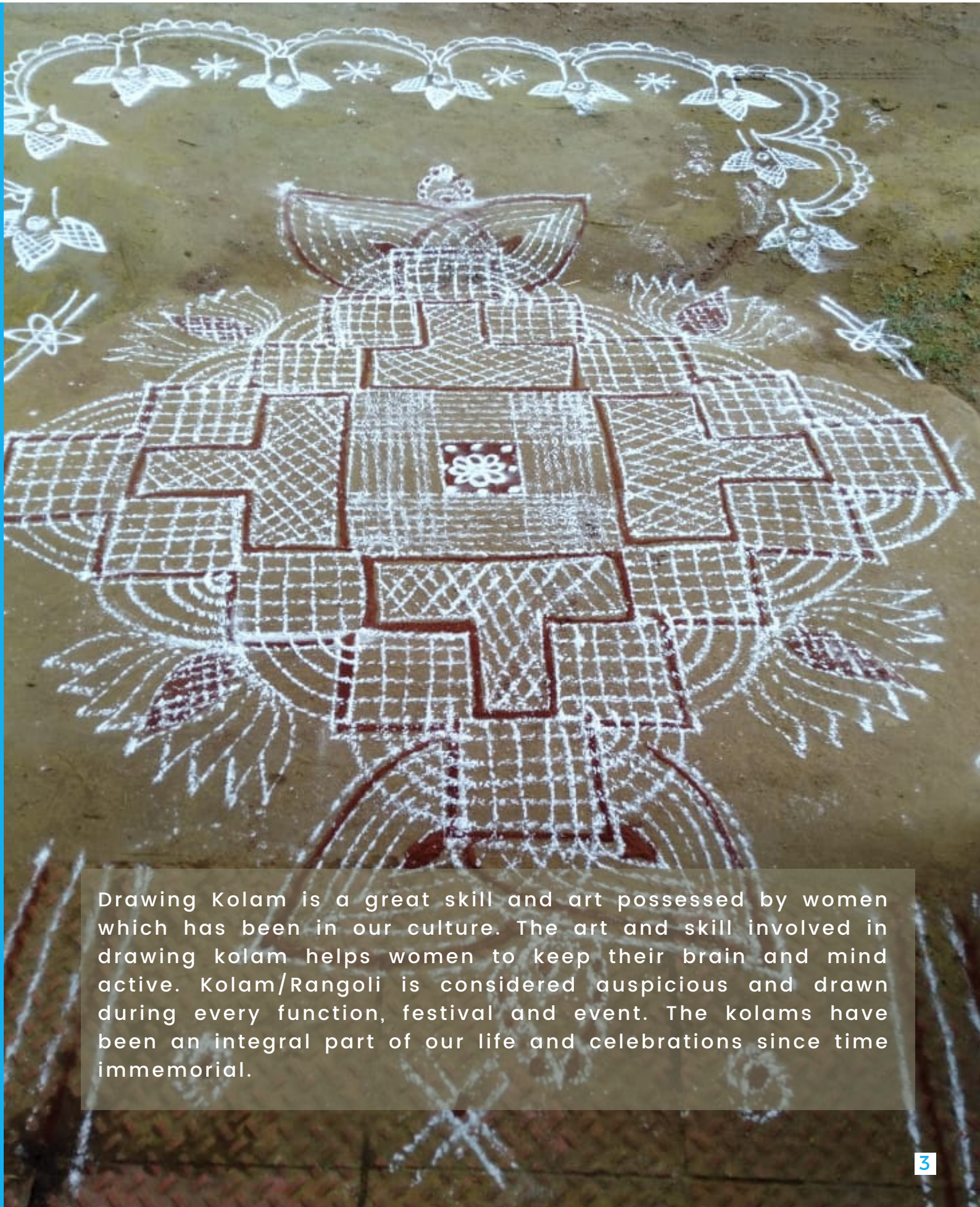
Kolam (Rangoli) is a traditional and auspicious form of art in India, drawn at the entrance of the house. These rangolis are drawn with simple designs on usual days and masterpieces of art with colours during festivals.

The month of Margazhi is embraced with colourful kolams in houses. Women wake up early, clean their house entrance and decorate it with magnificent kolams (rangolis) every day during the month of Margazhi. We would find beautiful rangolis of different patterns, designs and colours in front of every house during this month. Women also decorate these rangolis with flowers. It will be a treat to our eyes to see streets with colourful rangolis during Margazhi. Don't we love to experience such great artworks on our streets?

Women and youngsters do it with love and extreme passion. They derive happiness and pleasure from drawing different kolams every day.

Margazhi Kolam is a wonderful form of art with unique pattern of lines and curves drawn with reference to dots or without dots. The design varies from simple patterns to highly complex labyrinthine designs, which require dedication, memory, concentration and coordinated hand and body movements. Many people draw kolam with extraordinary creativity and speed. It is a popular art in both rural and urban areas. People in villages draw kolams in front of their homes, while people in cities draw kolam on the floors of the apartment. With advancement in technology, people refer to a lot of rangolis on internet and draw them. Several kolam competitions are conducted in streets to celebrate this month.

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Drawing Kolam is a great skill and art possessed by women which has been in our culture. The art and skill involved in drawing kolam helps women to keep their brain and mind active. Kolam/Rangoli is considered auspicious and drawn during every function, festival and event. The kolams have been an integral part of our life and celebrations since time immemorial.