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## **RANGOLI**

Rangoli is an art form that originates in which patterns are created on the floor or a tabletop using materials such as powdered limestone, red ochre, dry rice flour, colored sand, quartz powder, flower petals, and colored rocks. Synthetic colors are a modern variation. Other materials include red brick powder and even flowers and petals, as in the case of flower rangoli.

Rangoli is an everyday practice in Hindu households, however the colors are preferred during festivals and other important celebrations as it is time consuming. Rangoli have different names based on the state and culture. They are usually made outside the threshold of the main entrance, in the early mornings after cleaning the area. Traditionally, the postures needed to make a rangoli are a kind of exercise for women to straighten their spines. The rangoli represents the happiness, positivity and liveliness of a household, and is intended to welcome Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and good luck.

The purpose of rangoli is beyond decoration. The usage of colors and vibrant designs are showcased during occasions such as festivals, auspicious observances, marriage celebrations and other similar milestones and gatherings. Rangoli designs can be simple geometric shapes, depictions of deities, or flower and petal shapes appropriate to the given celebrations. They can also be made with elaborate designs crafted by numerous people. The geometric designs may also represent powerful religious symbols. Historically, basic designs were drawn around the cooking areas for the purpose of discouraging insects and pathogens. Over time, imagination and innovative ideas in rangoli art have also been incorporated. Its traditional charm, artistry and importance continue today.

The rangoli pattern at the Dallas Arboretum Diwali exhibit at the Degloyer House was created by a local artist, Payal Mehta.