

THANJAVUR DOLL

Thanjavur dolls, also known as Tanjore dolls or Thanjavur thalaiyatti bommai in Tamil Nadu. These are traditional handmade bobblehead dolls crafted from clay and adorned with vibrant colors. They are renowned for their detailing and traditional attire, often depicting mythological characters, deities, and local village scenes. These dolls are popular as decorative items and cultural artifacts, embodying the rich artistic heritage of Thanjavur.

Uniqueness

Thanjavur Dolls are unique creations crafted by artisans, incorporating the principles of gravitational force well before Sir Isaac Newton's discovery. The use of alluvial soil and clay from the banks of the River Cauvery enhances the utility and distinctiveness of these dolls, reflecting both traditional craftsmanship and an intuitive understanding of gravity. Furthermore, these dolls are known for their bobbling heads and depiction of mythological characters, reflect the rich cultural heritage and skilled craftsmanship of Tamil Nadu, cherished both as decorative items and cultural artifacts.

Raw Materials

Plaster of Paris, Wood Pulp, tuber flour (Sago), die



Price
₹500/- to ₹1000/-

Type of Goods
Handicraft

Class of Goods
28

Geographical Location
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

Proof of Origin
Since 16th century

No. of Families Involved
Approximately 2000 artisans

Method of Production

The process of making Thanjavur dolls starts with kneading locally sourced clay into a smooth texture, which is molded into the desired shape and left to partially dry. Artisans then meticulously add intricate details by hand, including facial features, clothing patterns, and accessories. Natural colors from minerals and vegetable dyes are applied, followed by a protective varnish. Some dolls may be further embellished with gold leaf before the final step of attaching the head, creating the characteristic bobblehead effect.