

Hindu Wedding

Inspired by the painting 'Bride's Toilet' by Amrita Sher-Gil, celebrate the customs and traditions of Indian wedding ceremonies. Offer tributes to Ganeesha, henna painting and adornment, to the Mandap ceremony, music, dancing and a feast...

Environment

Red and golden hues create a sumptuous backdrop for this workshop. There are three different areas for activity:

An altar area for offering tributes to Ganeesha, you can build a structure out of ply or simply drape a red cloth over a table. Items to offer:

- Rose petals
- Lavender water
- Flower necklaces
- Incense sticks
- Pot pourri
- Indian bells

A 'prep' area for preparing for the ceremony. Lay cloths on the floor surrounded by:

- Brown/white facepaint for adorning hands and feet
- Mobile mirrors for painting patterns
- Bowls of necklaces, bangles and rings
- Indian costumes and sari veils

A ceremony area with two 'thrones', chairs covered with cloths, cloths hung above, hanging bells and decorations. A variety of Indian instruments – dholak drums, handbells, ankle bells, snake bells, harmonium, shruti. Add a ceremonial taste element – naan breads and mango juice.

Costume - flower garlands, elephant mask/head for Ganeesha, a range of Indian inspired costumes for dressing in as part of the workshop.

Music - Hindu weddings take place over five days, with many different rituals. You could support the workshop with music from the Sangeet or Mehndi celebrations, both of which feature music prominently.

Activities

Ganeesha – Offer flowers in tribute to Ganeesha who appears at the altar to bless each individual. Receive cool, scented water to feel with fingers and smell. Rose petals and flowers to smell and wear in your hair. Play Indian bells to welcome Ganeesha.

Preparation – Time to get ready for the wedding. Brown/white face paint is used like henna for adorning hands/feet – a time for 1-1 interaction and opportunities to encourage touch with soft brushes or fingers. Hand held mirrors can be used to extend the pattern-making. Bring out necklaces and bracelets, offering choices and tactile exploration, different colours, sounds and 'spinning' bangles. Now to get dressed, choose costumes to wear, veils of different colours and textures, dance with the cloths, see how they float in the air

Ceremony – proceed to 'Mandap' where participants can take it in turns to sit on the thrones. Build up Indian rhythms using the drums and bells. The celebrations begin with dancing, processions, loud bangs and cheers. Use long cloths to float in the space for wheelchair users to move under. Enjoy a feast of naan breads and toast the happy couple with mango juice!

Links

Drums/Characters/Costume

Video

Hindu Wedding