

# Meet the Maker

## Shakil Khatri

Author: Sue Malvern Photography: © Sue Malvern

Batik is not usually associated with classic Indian textiles, but in the port town of Mundra in Kachchh there are several workshops producing batik cloth. One of these is Rainbow Textiles, run by Shakil Khatri. The traditions of Indian batik may have been influenced by Indonesia but the way batik is produced here is very different. Wax is printed onto the cotton cloth with carved blocks making characteristic designs often stylised flowers.

Shakil is a fifth-generation batik printer, inheriting and developing his family business. He has also trained at Somaiya Kala Vidya (<http://www.somaiya-kalavidya.org/>), a college in Gujarat teaching design and assisting traditional artisans to reflect on their cultural identity. As a consequence Shakil has been modernising batik producing new contemporary designs and reviving the use of natural dyes as well as running a workshop that is eco-conscious. He sells traditional cloth in the local market and his natural dyed contemporary textiles in urban centres such as Ahmedabad and Jaipur. He also posts intriguing images of his workshop processes on Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/shakil\\_ahmed\\_2292/?igshid=1izwcnxrwzk0n](https://www.instagram.com/shakil_ahmed_2292/?igshid=1izwcnxrwzk0n)

