

# FISH

## A UNIVERSAL ICON OF WORLD CULTURE



# AIM

## FOR SELECTION OF THIS THEME

- 1) Fish**, especially as food, is an important resource **worldwide**. So it is known to all, people of different countries, different ages, different cultures.
- 2) The** Main food of Bengalee is Rice & Fish and therefore as a Bengalee by selecting this, I can connect myself more easily with it.
- 3) Among** the Deities also, we can find the form of fish worldwide. Ika-Roa of the Polynesians, the Shark-Gods of Hawaii and Matsya of the Dravidas of India.
- 4) The** astrological symbol Pisces is based on a constellation of the same name, but there is also a second fish constellation in the night sky, *Piscis Austrinus*.

**5)In** the *Dhamma* of Buddha, the fish symbolize happiness as they have complete freedom of movement in the water.

**6)Fish** represent fertility and abundance.

**7)The** name of the Canadian city of Coquitlam, British Columbia is derived from *Kwikwetlem*, which is said to be derived from a Coast Salish term meaning "little red fish".)

**8)Large fish**, particularly sharks, have frequently been the subject of horror movies and thrillers, such as *Shark Tale*, *Snakehead Terror*, and *Piranha*.

**So Fish** have had a role in culture through the ages, serving as deities, religious symbols, and as the subjects of art, books and movies.

# TARGET OF VISITORS

**Fish is known to people of all ages of about all countries. Therefore visitors of all ages of different countries, different cultures can connect themselves with this exhibition.**

Searching through collection database of British Museum, I found about 52 interesting artefacts with Fish depicted in it.

Now showing some beautiful & interesting artefacts from these.

**Registration number: 2007,3005.42 (India, Asia)**

**Title: The Fish Avatar Matsya**

The first incarnation of Viṣṇu, rises from the river. He is flanked on either side by sadhus (holy men), partly submerged in water  
Gouache painting, Indian style, Company School Painting



Registration number: 1880,0.2427 (India, Asia)

**Title: The fish avatar Matsya**

The first incarnation of Viṣṇu, rises from the river. The upper body of Viṣṇu emerges from the body of the fish.

Gouache painting, Indian style, Company School Painting

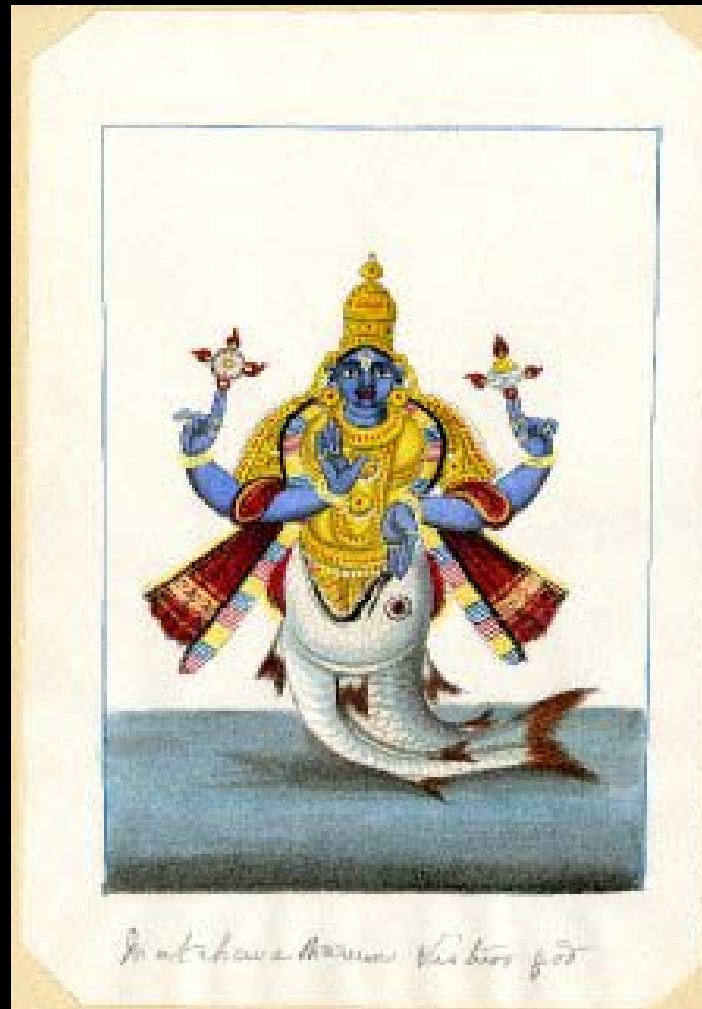


Registration number: 1880,0.2428 (India, Asia)

**Title: The fish avatar Matsya**

The first incarnation of Viṣṇu, rises from the river. The upper body of Viṣṇu emerges from the body of the fish.

Gouache painting, Indian style, Company School Painting





Registration number 1880,0.2329 (India, Asia)

**Title: The fish avatar Matsya**

The first incarnation of Viṣṇu, rises from the river, with four Brahmins and dead conch demon

Gouache painting, Indian style, Company School Painting

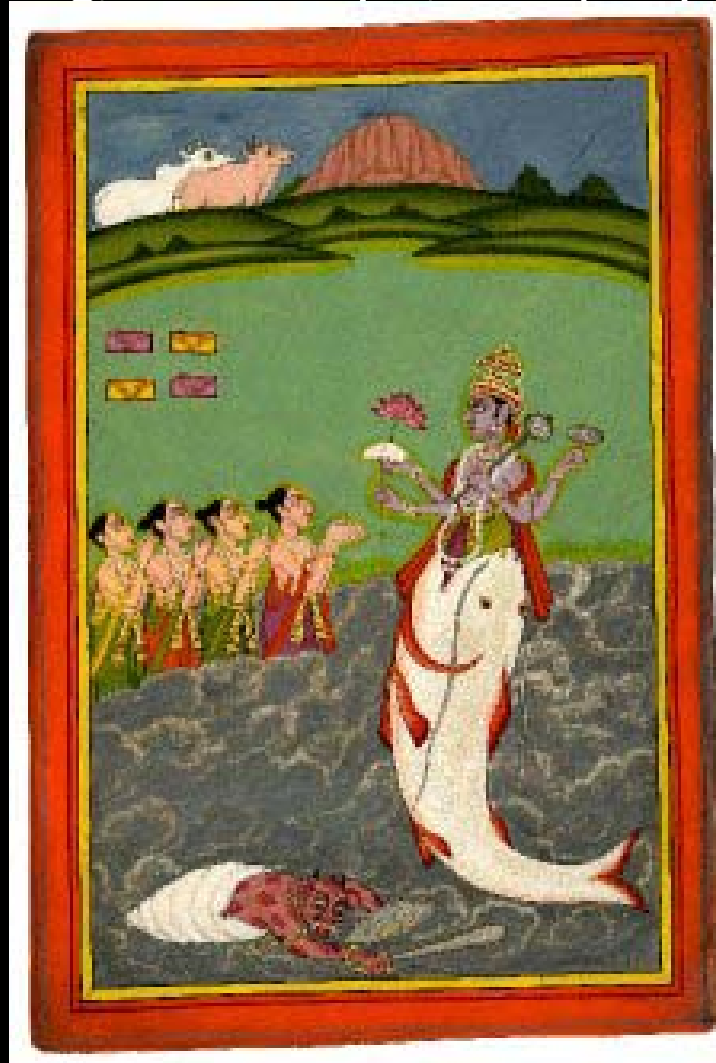


Registration number 1880,0.2199 (India, Asia)

**Title: The fish avatar Matsya**

The first incarnation of Viṣṇu, rises from the river, with four Brahmins and dead conch demon

Gouache painting, Indian style, Company School Painting



**Registration number: 1949,0409,0.85 (India, Asia)**

**Painting of Viṣṇu as Matsya.**

Viṣṇu is shown as half-fish and half-man carrying in his hands a discus, conch, lotus and club. Painted on paper in Calcutta, India

**Date 1860 (circa) Schools /Styles Kalighat Style**



**Registration number: 1886,0401.1389 (Greek & Roman)**

**The Figure**, probably male, head is missing, is seated on a low stool with a box on its lap which it is holding as if about to open it outwards. In front of the figure a table with four fishes

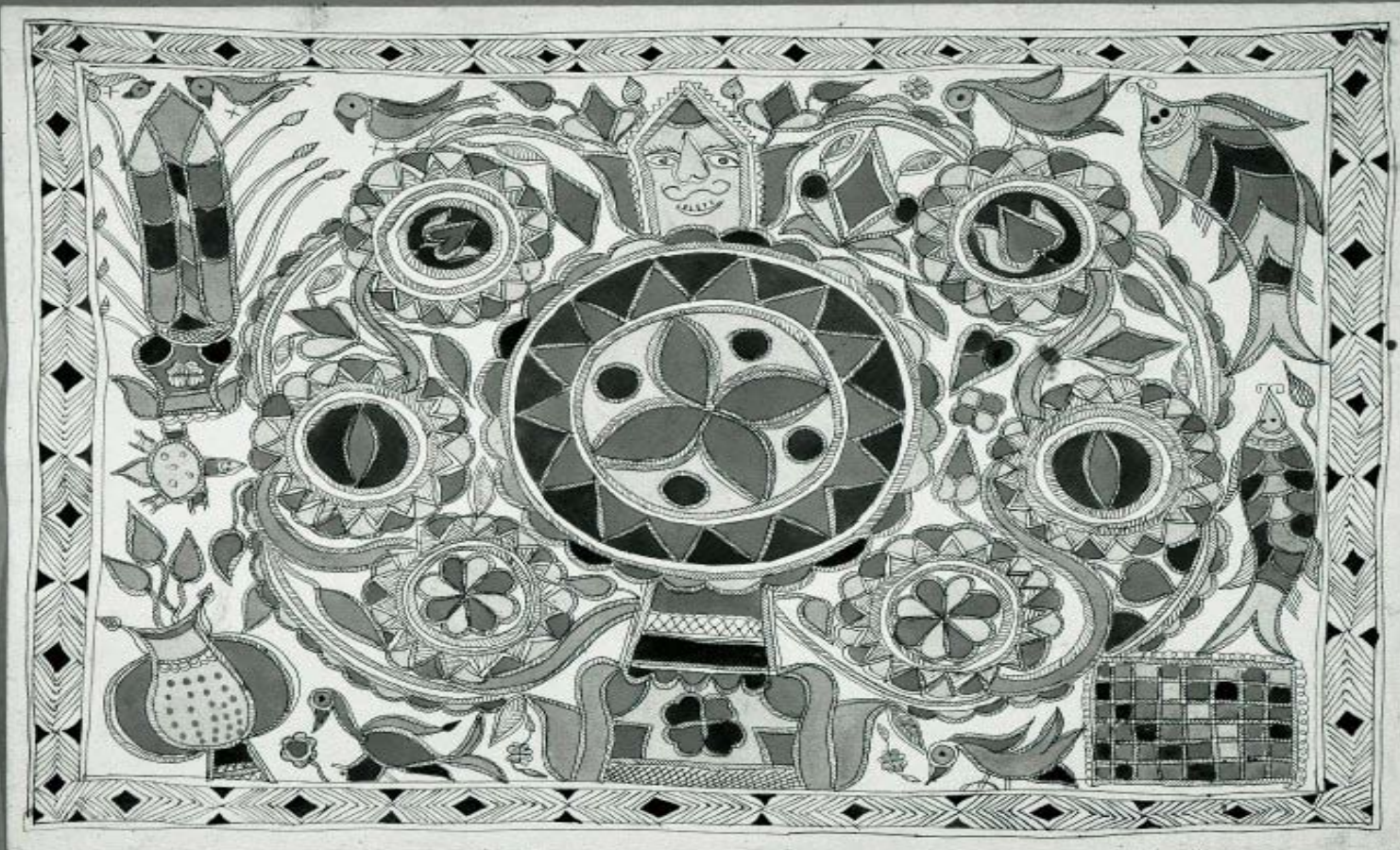


**Registration number: 2000,1012,0.13 (India, Asia)**

**Alpana/ Aripana**

**Painting in bright poster colours on handmade paper; fish, bird, flower etc. depicted on it; Painted by Lakshmi Devi on 1965-1972**

**Schools /Styles: Madhubani Style (India, Asia)**



**Registration number: 2007,3014.36 (India, Asia)**  
Story-telling painting, in gouache, of the 'Paithan' type, illustrating a narrative from the Mahabharata.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Centimeters

10cm

Registration number: 1937,0710,0.333(Middle East)

## Painting

Devotion. A Moslem ascetic walking on a fish avatar of Viṣṇu  
Made in India, **Dat:**17thC; Mughal Style.



**Registration number: PDF,A.797 (China, Asia)**

## **Porcelain Dish**

Decorated in wucaai style with delicate under glaze blue and over glaze red, green, yellow and black enamels. Roundel inside painted with pair of goldfish in a lotus pond, and group of five fish among colourful water weeds in cavetto. Made in China, Qing dynasty, 19th Century





**Registration number:** 1936,1012.104 (China, Asia)

This tall cup is an unusual shape and its sides taper in towards the foot ring. It is painted outside with a design of a fish emerging from waves which are depicted like pineapple scales, in white, green, and aubergine enamels on a yellow ground.

**Date**1662-1722; **Period/Culture**; Qing dynasty ;



**Registration number:** Am1985,Q.296(Africa, Oceania & the Americas)

## **Spoon**

Spoon of alder wood, crudely carved with a crest for the handle; handle is a halibut painted in brown and red



**Registration number:** Am1985,Q.297(Africa, Oceania & the Americas)

## **Spoon**

Spoon of alder wood, crudely carved with a crest for the handle; handle is a killer whale painted in brown



**Registration number:** Am1985,Q.298(Africa, Oceania & the Americas)

## **Spoon**

Spoon of alder wood, crudely carved with a crest for the handle; handle is painted in brown and red



**Registration number: 1980,0307.172(Prehistory and Europe)**

## **Tile**

Large panel of eight large tiles and sixteen border tiles, painted in bright blues and greens. The large tiles feature two adored fabulous peacocks, fish above and below; whole panel is framed with a stylised wavy border



**Registration number:** Am1954,05.1168 (Africa, Oceania & the Americas)

## **Figure**

Fish figure made of wood. Wooden hinges allow the head and tail to move horizontally independently of the rest of the body.



**Registration number:** Oc1914,0418.42 (Africa, Oceania & the Americas)

Painted wooden board, figure like shape of fish, wearing dance belt and bands, carved in low relief and painted.

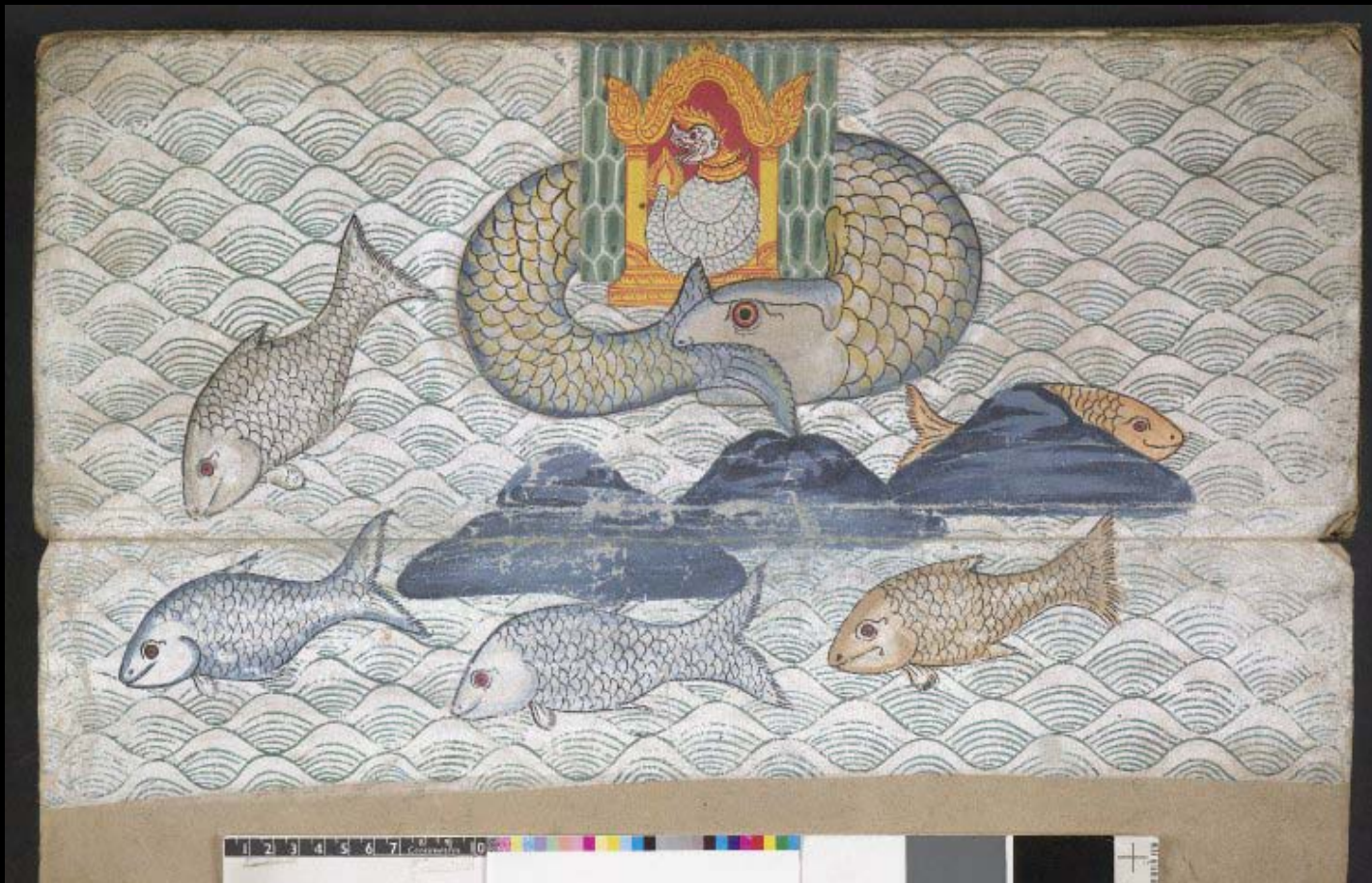


**Registration number: 2010,3003.1 (Mandalaya,Asia)**

## **Manuscript**

**Painted in Mandalay; Date:1857-1885**

Burmese court manuscript of locally-made paper. The manuscript contains 42 folds, assembled in concertina fashion and has paintings and text on both sides





**Registration number:** 2000,1130.1 (Korea, Asia)  
**Stoneware vase with under glaze iron fish decoration.**  
Punchong type, Made in Korea  
**Date** 15thC-16thC **Period/Culture** Choson Dynasty



Registration number: Am1978,15.288.a-c (Africa, Oceania & the Americas)

**Dance-ornament (*set of three*)**

*Carved of wood; in the form of fish*

*This fish is worn over the shoulders of fishermen during the Danza de los Pescadores.*



**Registration number:** Am1978,15.837.a (Africa,Oceania & the Americas)

## **Figurine**

Carved from wood; in the form of fish; lacquered red; painted with gold scales; Made in **Olinalá**

It was exhibited in 1977-1978 at the Horniman Museum, and later acquired by the British Museum

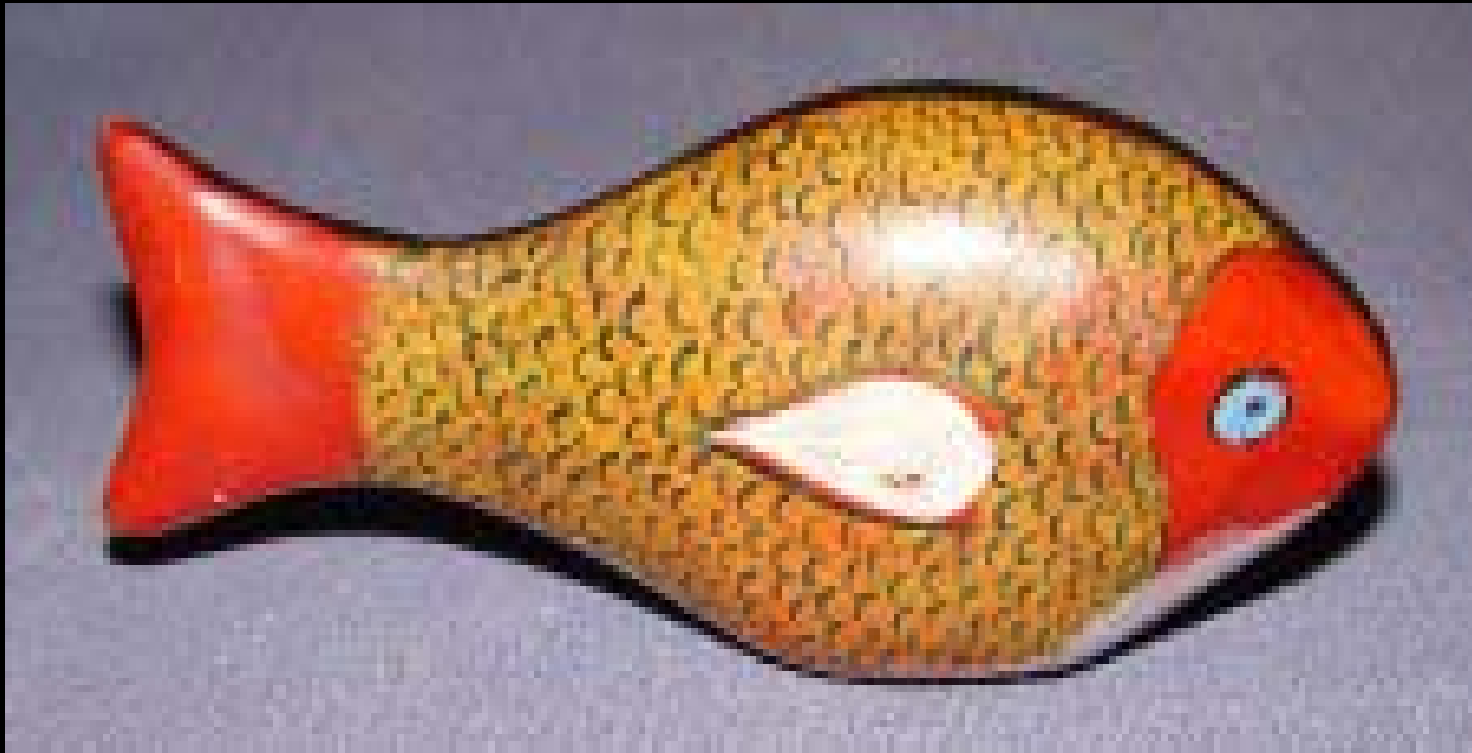


**Registration number:** Am1978,15.837.b (Africa,Oceania & the Americas)

## **Figurine**

Carved from wood; in the form of fish; lacquered red; painted with gold scales and black markings, white fin; Made in **Olinalá**

It was exhibited in 1977-1978 at the Horniman Museum, and later acquired by the British Museum



**Registration number:** Am1978,15.837.c (Africa,Oceania & the Americas)

## **Figurine**

Carved from wood; in the form of fish lacquered peach; painted with blue stripe down back and around neck, white scales with multicoloured dots, white facial features; Made in **Olinalá**

It was exhibited in 1977-1978 at the Horniman Museum, and later acquired by the British Museum



**Registration number:** Am1978,15.837.d (Africa,Oceania & the Americas)

## **Figurine**

Carved from wood; in the form of fish; lacquered red; painted with blue stripe down back and around neck; green, white, yellow and purple stripes of dots; blue fins, white facial features.; Made in **Olinalá**

It was exhibited in 1977-1978 at the Horniman Museum, and later acquired by the British Museum



**Registration number: Am1978,15.915(Africa, Oceania & the Americas)**

## **Comb**

Carved from horn; in the form of fish; tail curled up over back, teeth along stomach; eye painted black, scales brown

It was exhibited in 1977-1978 at the Horniman Museum, and later acquired by the British Museum



Registration number: Af1996,08.6Am1978, (Africa, Oceania & the Americas)

## Head-dress

Made of Wood & cardboard

Made in Nigeria, Made by Kalabari





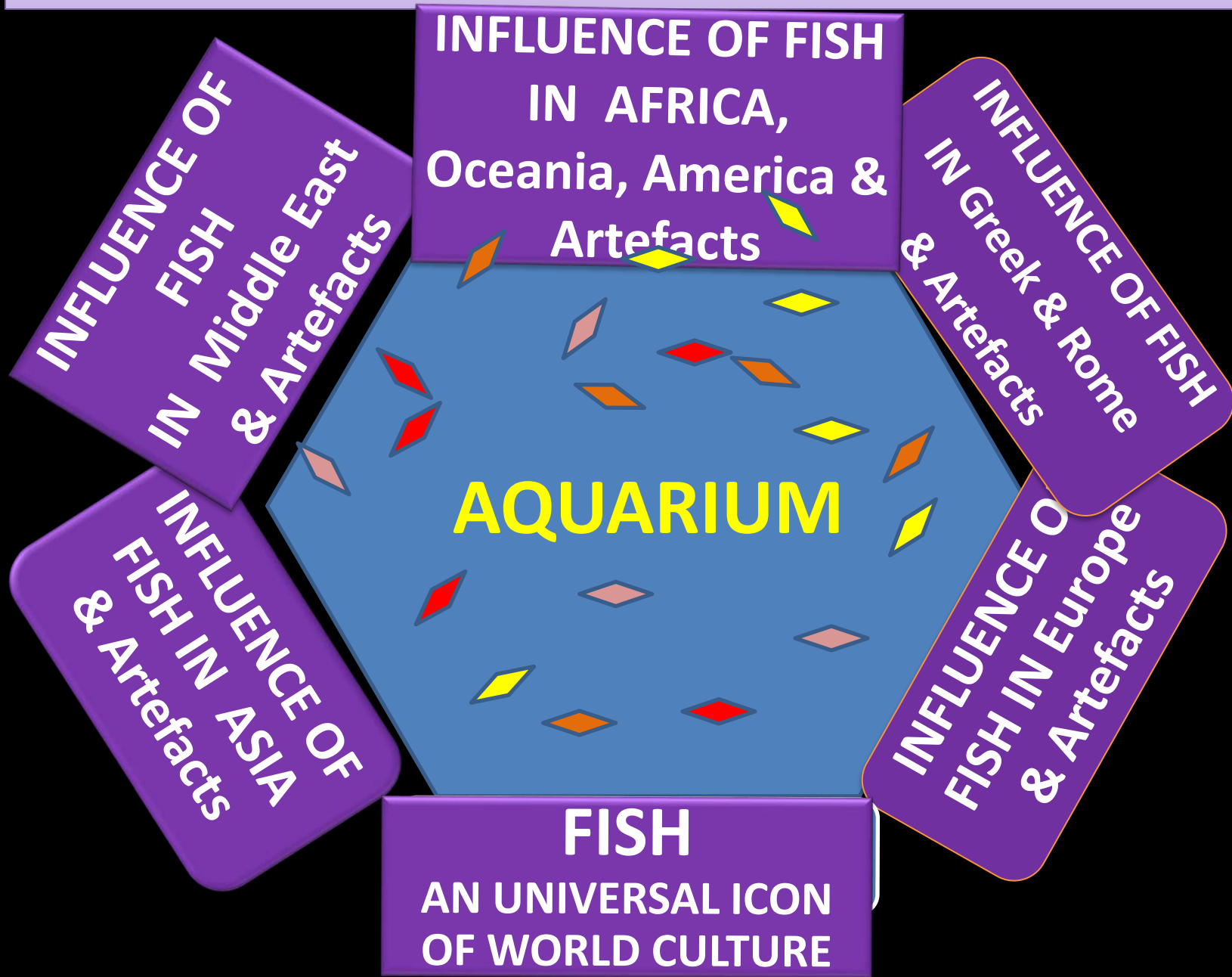
**Registration number:** 1973,0226,0.69 (Japan, Asia)

**Fan** Painted by Watanabe Kazan

Made in Japan; **Date** 19thC; Edo Period



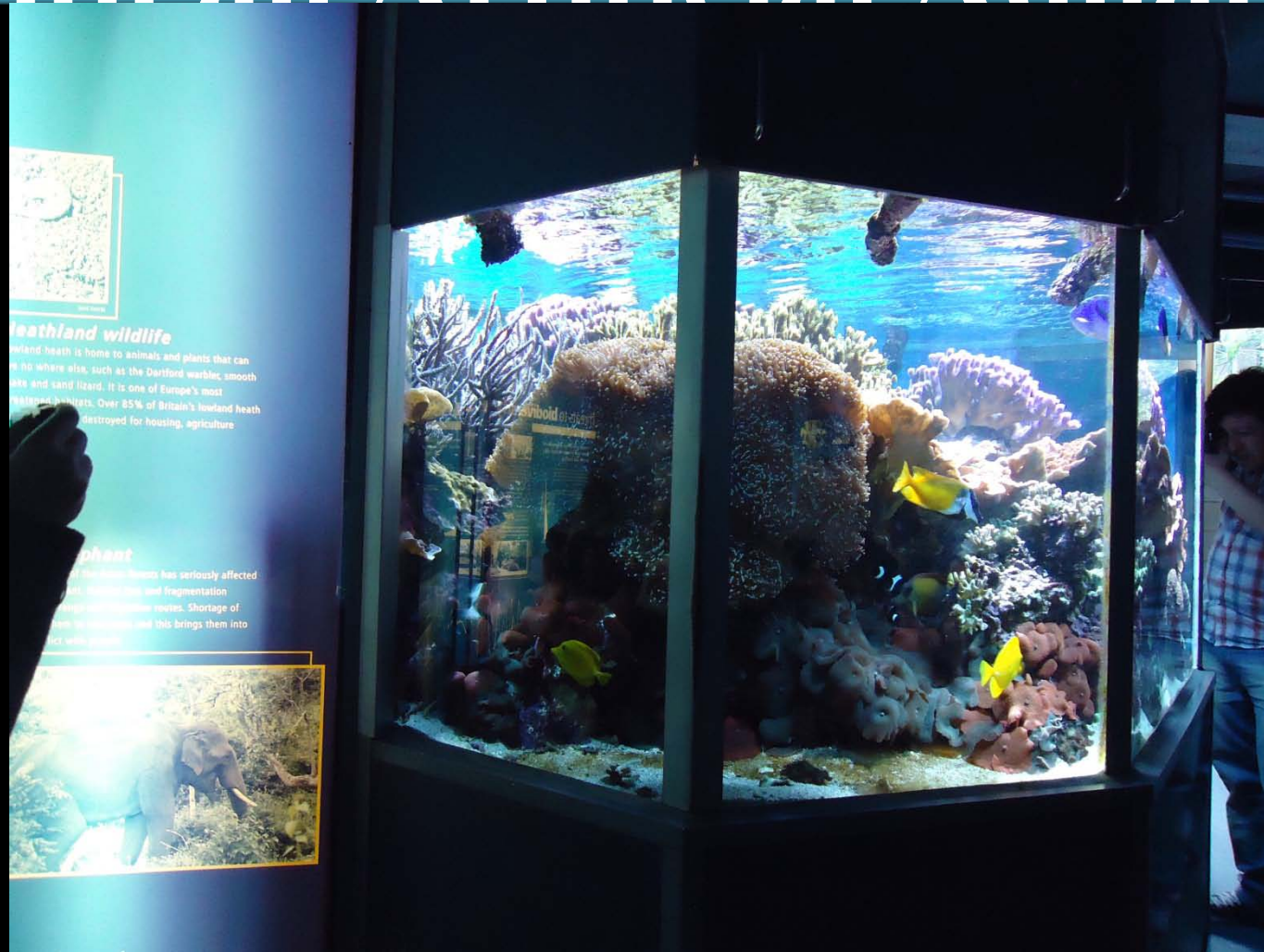
# DISPLAY OF EXHIBITION



# Display in the middle of Room

## 3

### with an Artificial Aquarium



# Souvenir in shop

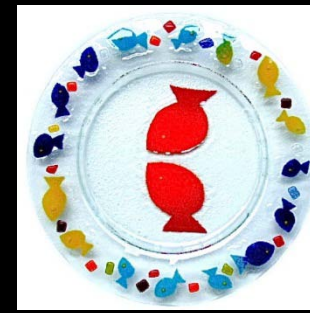


ペーパー魚モチーフショルダーバッグ



A B C D E

鮮やかな色使いのペーパー繊維で編まれた  
ポップなイメージのミニショルダーバッグ



# Activities

- ◇ **Food Festival with different recipes' of fish from all over the world in British Museum Food Court;**
- ◇ **Creation of Innovative recipes by adult;**
- ◇ **Colourful fiber model of different fish species in a corner of gallery(Room 3) for Hands On activities for children;**
- ◇ **Film show on Fish such as Shark Tale, Snakehead Terror, and Piranha**

Thank you

&

Welcome you all to

India