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# FEATURES OF MODERN DEVELOPMENT OF KAZAKH NATIONAL ART OF KNITTING CHII

## FEATURES OF MODERN DEVELOPMENT OF KAZAKH NATIONAL ART OF KNITTING CHII

### Abstract

According to the researchers, the art of knitting chii started to develop from the XV century. In this article issues of modernizing and enriching the early established knitting chii art of our boundless country, transferring this valuable heritage to our young generation, inputting it in modern everyday life and promotion of national crafts are very important. Each of the items currently used in our everyday life should have Kazakh national motives and promote renewal according to modern requirements. In this article development of students of «Textile arts», speciality of «Decorative arts», of the department «Decorative applied arts» of T. Zhurgenov Kazakh National Academy of Arts as a specialist in academic specialization and the importance of learning the methods of knitting chii in the field of crafts is discussed.

**Keywords:** chii, shymchii, oramachii, white chii, ornament, modern chii, souvenirs, wool, chii panel

### INTRODUCTION.

The art of knitting chii is well known for Middle Asian nations (Kazakhs, Kyrgyzs, Turkmens, semi-settled Uzbeks, Karakalpaks) with nomadic and semi-settled way of living in the past. It is known from ancient times that craftsmen used the richness of nature in their day-to-day life. Using of naturally occurring things, even using of a dry chii, determining its place in household and revealing its value and

importance are not only the skilfulness of our ancestors, and also the mastery of them. Knitting chii is a craft remained from our ancestors. As well as being very beautiful, it is very suitable to carry it in movement.

Kazakh craftsmen used these kinds of chii in the past: ore chii – kinds of chii knitted very simply; shabak chii – mat made up of chii; shym chii – it comes ornamental, used for covering the walls of

a yurt [1, p.24].

Oramachii is used to hold the yurt from its outside, it makes the yurt beautiful and helps to keep the warm temperature inside. And it is a decorative furniture as well as shym chii. Orama chii is used frequently when the weather gets colder. It saves the yurt from moisture and protects from dust as well. If tightly knitted chii keeps the yurt warm when the weather is cold, it also helps to cool the yurt when its hot outside simply by folding it.

«Whitechii» - chii knitted after peeling its shell. People often used white chii. It has been used in everyday life mostly while drying kurt, irimshik, while boiling and filtering tary, and while covering kitchenware, etc. We know them also as ore, oresheshypta. Nowadays «whitechii» is used only in rural areas. [2, p.32].

Shymchii is a specific type of chii. Totally ornamented shym chii is used to cover the place where dishes, food and beverages kept. While knitting chii with ornaments, composite construction of an ornament is very important. Composite construction of all types of ornaments which Kazakh craftsmen use in this field are very important. In terms of composition all types ornaments which Kazakh craftsmen use in this field can be defined as: complete, individual and whole ornament, unrepentant length ornament (ornament which has equal components lengthwise and crosswise). Above mentioned Kazakh ornaments in individual and whole forms met in the art of knitting shym chii also called as «square ornaments». They are used for styling the whole surface of the shym chii. Totally ornamented shym chii can replace the wall carpet. Shym chii – ornamented chii is used to separate the walls of the yurt and its turylyk (wall carpet). Another type of shym chii is shym door, it is an ornamented chii which is used for

hanging it to the door. Shym chii is being used according to modern requirements.



Figure 1. Shymchii. Local museum of history of Torgay oblast.



Figure 2. Shymchii. Fragment. XX century, Zhambyl oblast. State museum of art of the Republic of Kazakhstan named after A. Kasteyev.

## METHODS.

The process of knitting chii is very difficult, because every chii should be covered colourful wool and should be connected with others. «Zhuzteru» is a name of the process of knitting an ornament given by craftsmen. Before knitting an ornament craftsman mark the place where it will be stringed mostly with knife, pencil or with fire. This marking is called «syzu». Then a craftsman knit an ornament across those marks with needle and colourful string. And finally it should be a clear picture from many different elements. In order not to make one side of a chii thin and the other side thick it has to be rotated, thicker side up then thicker side down.

Correct placing of chii pieces according to their marks is called «tizu»[4,p.16].

Depending on the promotion of life it would be great if works art were made in modern direction. Traditional shymchii knitted with wool, in modern understanding, has its expiration date, and there is a possibility to make this expiration date longer with the use of modern materials. The feature of the technology of knitting modern chii panel –to wrap the ends of each chii with colourful paper, cloth or foil materials, and to knit it by the form of the picture.

### RESULTS.

In my opinion because of this property chii will be used nowadays, and it will even stay for a long time in the future. By this, comparatively consideration of the traditional chii and the modern chii, we will attract people to knit chii and create artistic works.

In the chii panel work «Abstrakciya» instead of diplomant wool foil has been used. The work in terms of its composition is suitable for the modern interior decoration.

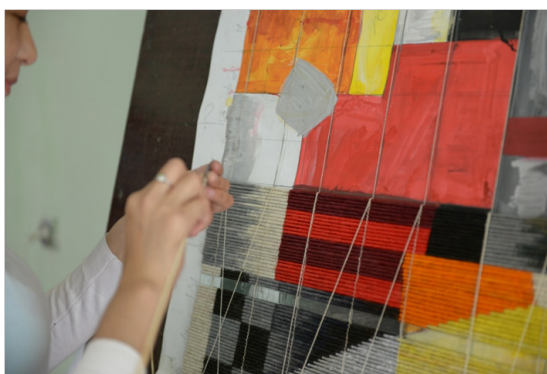


Figure 3. A modern method of knitting chii panel. The process from diploma work of Kumisbekova Moldir, supervisor Bazarbayeva R.E. 2016.

It is pleased to see works made by new methods in thesis works of the students of specialty of 'Artistic knitting', the department of 'Decorative applied arts' of



Figure 4. A modern chii panel in the process of knitting. The process from diploma work of Kumisbekova Moldir, supervisor Bazarbayeva R.E. 2016.

T. Zhurgenov Kazakh National Academy of Arts. It is a hard work of teachers who guide students to this new field. We think chii will be necessary both now and in the future, also I believe that interest for handicraft will rise. It is very important to develop the design, the form of the chii panel according to modern requirements. Every painter and craftsman of handicraft should work in the direction of this innovation.

### DISCUSSION.

Kazakh nation is a direct inheritor of archaic culture established from ancient times in our vast country and also developer of its tradition, modernizer and enricher. Craftsmen have been teaching handicraft generation after generation in order to bring up artistic young generation. The art of knitting chii was connected only with yurt in the past, but nowadays it can be used as a decorative product. True ingenuity needs persistence, sophistication, education, and courage.

With this we can show our national handicraft to others. Every work done with the hands of craftsman is always important. Artistic craftsmen should be able to create handicraft, which is useful for household. Our main responsibilities are to inspire our young generation to create new products and to teach the technics and technologies of knitting chii.

Handicraft of nation will rise without any doubt when its culture rises.

There is a direct and natural connection between ancient and modern handicraft of Kazakh nation. Analysing of ancient works of art in creations of professional painters and developing of new types of decorative arts are in priority. Famous painters, craftsmen of handicraft, inspirers of a lot of students, teachers of the department of 'Decorative applied arts' in T. Zhurgenov Kazakh National Academy of Arts Saule Bapanova and Raushan Bazarbayeva never have been tired of teaching students the technological methods of knitting chii in connection with painting, and creating masterpieces which correspond modern requirements. The quality and the beauty of the work depends on the imagination of the craftsman and on the ability to combine all methods. Every type of art needs a hard work.

Nowadays panels made up of chii are widely used in public places. Hanging paintings and panels in large luxury houses became fashionable, hanging carpets is in the past. It means using chii in household will continue. And by periodically developing it will serve for the benefit of the country. This traditional art of our ancestors inheritance gives us spiritual and aesthetic knowledge and inspires us. I believe that cultural inheritance will go on with new artistic works. Every product made up of chii is hand made from the beginning till the end and do not repeat each other like souvenirs from the factory. And that kind of products will always be in demand. There are many opportunities to make great products and to develop knitting chii with traditional techniques. Big ideas, deep thoughts, complicated feelings can be given through artistic work. Currently, the young artist, makes a

unique masterpiece in crafts, and we see the proofs in changing of the design and



Figure 5. «Anar» chii panel of the tutor of Kazakh National Academy of Arts named after T. Zhurgenov Doszhanov Bauyrzhan. 2012.

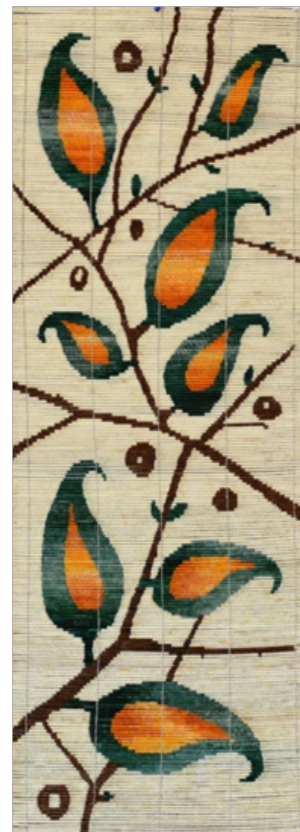


Figure 6. Chii panel of the student of Kazakh National Academy of Arts named after T. Zhurgenov Bakyrzanova Aigerim. 2014.



Figure 7. «Omira ozen» chii panel of the teacher of Kazakh National Academy of Arts named after T. Zhurgenov Doszhanov Bauyrzhan. 2013.

method.

So in near future we might be able to see craftsmen with their signatures in handicraft. We will reanimate the applied arts of our nation by knitting chii. There is a saying that «Art is a heart of nation», and it is our duty to learn the art from the nation, develop it, and realize it. In my opinion each thing used in our daily life should have national theme. By this Kazakh nation will show its culture and national art in international exhibitions.

### **CONCLUSION.**

Ancient art of Kazakhs knitting chii with ornaments has found its continuation. The works of this art stand out not only with the simplicity of its materials, but also stands out with its beauty. Handicraft works were not only household equipment in the past, but also it gave beauty to nomadic lifestyle, and it will be memorial of our national handicraft. Nowadays the art of knitting chii is valued as a national wealth.

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## **ОСОБЕННОСТИ РАЗВИТИЯ СОВРЕМЕННОГО КАЗАХСКОГО НАРОДНОГО ИСКУССТВА**

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### **Аннотация**

По мнению исследователей, технология изготовления циновки разработана в XV веке. В статье рассматриваются актуальные для будущих поколений вопросы: развитие и возрождение ценного наследия казахского народа, традиционного искусства чиеплетения, реализация и продвижение национального ремесла в современном стиле.

В настоящее время национальные узоры в декоративно-прикладных изделиях производятся инновационными методами. В КазНАИ им. Т. Жургенова, на кафедре «ДПИ» при изучении специализации «Художественное ткачество» разрабатываются новые методы обучения студентов ремеслу чиеплетения, преподаются академические знания и инновационные технологии.

**Ключевые слова:** циновка (ши), шым чий, орама чий, ак чий, орнамент, современное панно чий, сувениры, шерсть.

## «ҚАЗАҚ ДӘСТҮРЛІ ШИ ТОҚУ ӨНЕРІНІҢ ЗАМАН ТАЛАБЫНА САЙ ДАМУ ЕРЕКШЕЛІКТЕРІ»

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### Аңдатпа

Зерттеушілердің пікірінше, ши тоқу өнері XV ғасырдан бастап дамыған. Мақалада кең байтақ еліміздің ертеден қалыптасқан дәстүрлі ши тоқу өнерін жаңғыртып, байыту, осы құнды мұраны ұрпағымыздың бойына сіңірту, заман талабына қарай қолданысқа енгізу, ұлттық қолөнер туындыларын насихаттау мәселесі өзекті болып табылады. Қазіргі таңда қолданылатын әрбір бұйымдардан қазақ халқының ұлттық нақыштарының көрініс тапқанын, заманауи өзгеріске ұшырап, жаңаруын насихаттайды. Мақалада Т.Жүргенов атындағы ҚазҰӨА «Сәндік қолданбалы өнер» кафедрасының «Сәндік өнер» мамандығы, «Көркем тоқыма» мамандандыруы студенттерінің маман болып қалыптасуындағы академиялық білім мен қолөнер саласындағы ши тоқудың жаңа технологияларын меңгертудегі өзектілік мәні айқындалады.

**Түйін сөздер:** ши, шым ши, орама ши, ақ ши, ою-өрнек, заманауи ши, кәдесыйлар, жүн, ши панносы

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