



PAVAKATHAKALI

Sourced for the Museum | Year: 20-21st c.

Pavakathakali is a glove puppet tradition of Kerala based on the themes and characters of Kathakali. The puppets recreate episodes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and other Hindu epics.



GULABO SITABO

Sourced for the Museum | Year: 20-21st c.

Gulabo Sitabo is a traditional glove puppet theatre of Uttar Pradesh featuring the humorous characters Gulabo and Sitabo. Known for its wit and satire, it entertains audiences while conveying social messages.



PUTUL NAAACH

Sourced for the Museum | Year: 20-21st c.

Putul Naach is the traditional puppet theatre of Bengal, featuring rod puppets and string puppets. It presents mythological stories, folk legends, and social narratives through music, dialogue, and performance.



TOLU GIOMBAYATTA

Sourced for the Museum | Year: 20-21st c.

Tolu Gombeyata is the shadow puppet tradition of Karnataka, in which finely crafted leather puppets are projected onto a screen using light. The performances primarily narrate episodes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata.



CHADAR BADAR

Sourced for the Museum | Year: 20-21st c.

Chadar Badar is an ancient form of indigenous puppetry of the Santhals, one of the largest indigenous groups of India. Traditionally, this form has been an important means of folk education, also making it a vehicle of their ancient language. It is one of India's few rod puppetry formats.



KATAPUTHALI

Sourced for the Museum | Year: 20-21st c.

Kathputli is the traditional string puppet of Rajasthan, crafted from wood and cloth. Used by itinerant puppeteers, these puppets narrate folk tales, heroic legends, and social themes through music and storytelling.

YAMPURI

Sourced for the Museum | *Year: 20–21st c.*

Yampuri is a traditional rod puppet theatre of Bihar distinguished by its finely carved wooden puppets with articulated limbs. The performances depict mythological tales, historical episodes, and folk stories, preserving the region's rich storytelling heritage.