

GOLD EMBROIDERY

Zardozlik — (Gold embroidery) is one of the most ancient types of handicraft, the profession of embroidering with golden thread. In Farsi it means “zar” — gold, “dozi” — sewing. Mainly it was an occupation of Bukhara population.

In gold embroidery such fabrics as velvet, silk, cloth and leather are embroidered (the images of flower, pattern or a picture) with golden or silver thread. In embroidery sometimes metal, stone or glass beads are used. In forming the shapes such styles as *zardozi*, *zamindozi*, *guldozi*, *birishdozi* and *pulakdozi* are also used. Among the patterns of *handasa* and plants, used in this profession, as the most beautiful ones considered *davqur*, *darham*, *donacha*, *bodomiy*, *butador* and others.

In gold embroidery such instruments as hoop, scissors, thimble and needle are used. In gold embroidery such fabrics as velvet, (imported or local) silk, satin, muslin, broadcloth, wool, leather and local half silk fabric called “*alocha*” were used. Various types of metal threads served as primary materials.

Its formation goes back to ancient history. At the end of the XIX – beginning of the XX century Bukhara was the center of crafts associated with gold embroidery. Notably, at that time men mostly dealt with gold embroidery. But in some cases, when there were more orders than expected, women (who were close relatives of gold embroiderers) could also assist them.

In the beginning of the XX century specific school of gold embroidery was created in Bukhara, Samarkand, Fergana and in other cities of Uzbekistan. *Zardozi* clothes, which were prepared from precious fabric became widespread among different layers of the local people. This clothes were mainly sewed for the servants of Emir’s palace and for local rich people.

Subsequently, as the people’s household demands increased, gold embroidery clothes started being prepared for all the layers of population. During that period many household items were embroidered with a help of gold and silver threads. These were *chimildiq* (a curtain, which divided room into two parts), *joynamoz* (prayer rug), *takhmonposh* (cover for bedclothes), small items as sacks (for money, tea and stamps), sheaths for knife and individual parts of horse munitions (*zinpush* (saddle-cloth), *dauri* (horsecloth), *yolposh* (coverlet for saddle)). At present, decorating huge objects such as thematic panel, theater curtains, as well as gift items, needle cases, glasses cases, cosmetics handbags with gold embroidery are very popular in Uzbekistan.

Bukhara, Andijan, Namangan, Fergana, Tashkent, Samarkand, Urgut, Qarshi, Jizzakh cities and Surkhandarya region are the centers of the modern gold embroidery. Bakhshillo Jumaev (Bukhara) is considered as the most experienced and the most skillful master. Among the representatives D. Tosheva, M. Khabibova, V. Sadullayeva (Bukhara), M. Fakhrieva (Samarkand), S. Sarimsoqova (Jizzakh) are the masters of this ancient tradition.



