

Section 2: Welcome back



3. Pooja Kunita



20 years ago



Today

(Dr Uma N, 2004)

Origins and tradition

- Related to the goddess of strength („*shakti*“)
- The „*pooje*“ is a square-shaped bamboo frame with an idol of the goddess embedded in the center
- The „*poojari*“ (male priest) performs this art during religious festivals and/or at the request of a fellow devotee/patron
- Taught verbally from one generation to the next
- Grace, rhythm and balance are key prerequisites for a good delivery
- It is a solo art form



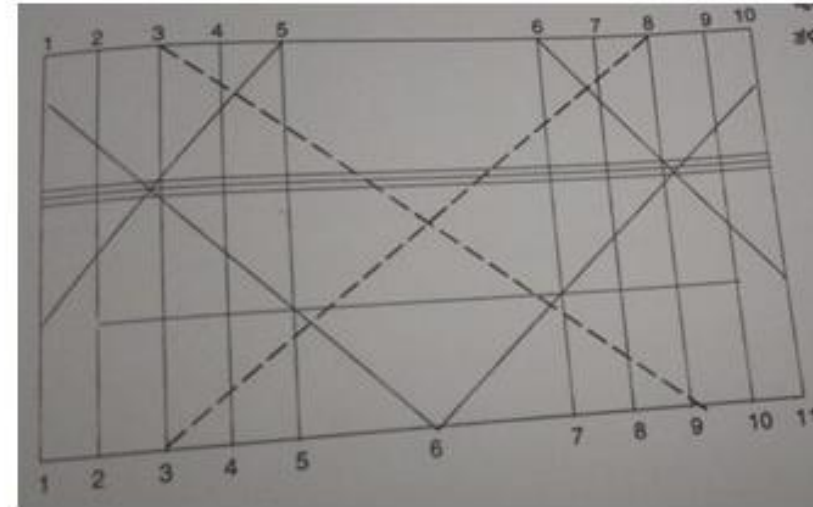
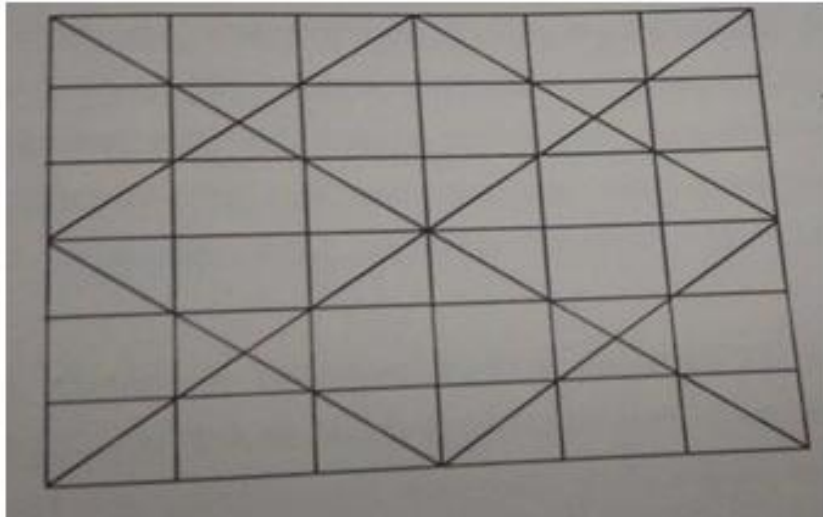
Costume and decor

- The artist wears a simple costume with bells at the ankle
- The „*pooje*“ consists of:
 - Horizontally and vertically laid out bamboo trunks
 - A copper vessel for weight distribution
 - The idol of the goddess of strength
 - Colourful flower, clothing and jewellery
 - About 7 to 9 „*kalashas*“*
- Weighs about **35 to 40 kgs** in total



*The „kalasha“ is believed to contain the elixir of life.

The geometrical structure of Pooja Tali



- Bamboo brought on the day of the new moon
- It is then given to the weavers
- The bamboo stems are arranged in decorative geometry and majorly in a way to ensure balance while performing

(Dr Uma N, 2004)

Dance pattern

- The playing of a percussive instrument marks the beginning of the performance
- The troop of 1 dancer and 3 musicians
 - Accompanied by two more musicians as the performance time progresses
- The dancer shows-off his balancing skills and strength by shifting his own, and the position of the „*pooje*“
- Some can perform upto an **hour** with this weight!

Dance pattern

Mr. Siddaramaiah and team



(Dr Uma N, 2004)

Dance pattern

Mr. Mohan Kumar



Images provided by performers

Section 2.3 Pooja Kunita



Images provided by performers

Dance pattern

Ms. Savitha



(Dr Uma N, 2004)

Section 2.3 Pooja Kunita



Images provided by performers