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Macbeth, P.A.

Ideas of Exchange

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processes are combined. The factories also had women producing hand stitch as out workers, taking fabric's home, juggling work with family.

Slide 5 Women hand stitching

The women hand stitched they had done so all of their lives as part of their culture and tradition, They now did so as a way of earning income. They worked silently absorbed in their making holding the fabrics in their hands feeling the texture and weight of the cloth. Until watching them approach stitch and many others whilst in India, I had never been inspired to hand stitch. I had always artificially given the fabric tension by using a hoop, never realised it's potential for adding structure and simple decoration to a cloth. I spent the remainder of the trip designing a hand stitch collection and have hand stitched ever since. There is something within the process of making that has to connect silently and cerebaly; being instructed verbally does not lead to a full understanding. Alison Shreeve observes.

'The process of designing and of communicating intention is visual. The immediacy of the visual would be lost if it were verbalised.'

In the more rural areas such as Rajasthan production was a village affair, with whole communities dedicated to producing one type of textile technique. In one factory I came across a piece of fabric, which I had designed, I had produced the sample by machine stitching and then dip dyeing the whole piece, to create the kind of imperfections in colouration that I have previously discussed.