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6. BLOCK-PRINTED LENGTH OF CLOTH

MITHI, SINDH, PAKISTAN, 1980S

Fine white cotton tabby. Pattern: Sae Ghand. The resists and iron black were block printed; indigo blue and alizarin red were applied in dye baths. The print was made by Lisette Kampmann.

The block-printed pattern is composed of bands of plants and flowers running across from selvage to selvage and down the entire length of the cloth. The pattern, which is also called Leemai, takes its name from the citrus plants in the wide border. The narrow border contains only little flowerheads. The block print is decorated along both selvages with a narrow garland, which meets a set of double black-and-white stripes across each end of the fabric. The flower borders were first printed with iron black, which provided the black contours. Iron black is also found in the stripes at the ends of the fabric and in the beaded border along the selvage. Both appear blackish blue as a result of the ensuing over dyeing with blue. A resist was used before the fabric was dyed with indigo blue. The resist with alum fixed the alizarin red to the fabric. Dyeing with both blue and red created the flower borders' violet hue.

