



Inv. no. 24/2013

9. BLOCK-PRINTED SHAWL (AJRAKH)

NASIRABAD, SINDH, PAKISTAN, 1980S

Block-printed ajrakh shawl consisting of two lengths of cloth crocheted together.

Fine cotton tabby. Crocheted together along the selvage. The fabric was printed on both sides. Central pattern: Chakki. The resists and iron black were block printed; indigo blue and alizarin red were applied in dye baths. Alizarin red was used twice (light red and dark red) and indigo blue twice (light indigo and dark indigo).

The large central section of the shawl is covered by the Chakki pattern, which consists of a symmetrical block-printed repeat with a central rosette surrounded by four little stars arranged around the rosette's diagonal axes, ending at each corner in a quarter rosette. The quarter rosettes form whole ones when the individual block prints are placed precisely and symmetrically beside one another. This ajrakh also terminates in the Palan pattern, like 19/2013 and 23/2013, no. 7 and no. 8.