

Face to Face



Image courtesy: google



Pic: Friday Team

Face painting is becoming a popular trend as well as a good source of money, finds **Gayatri Pagare**

Face painting is creating a buzz today and a new way to cheer cricket teams. People paint flags on their faces to cheer their favourite teams. Face painting is one of the most fun things for young children. Earlier it was only the clowns who painted their faces to entertain public.

Today, the game of cricket has elevated from being just a sport to gain iconic status and define trends in fashion and style. In recent cricket matches, it is most exciting to see an array of painted faces around the stadium. Thousands of fans with faces painted in varied colours and designs have made the new art of Face painting immensely popular.

The profession

Face painting can be a great profession with more and more people resorting to it to increase the fun quotient at parties and other occasions. Masks have been now replaced by painted faces.

The most popular designs for face painting are usually those of animals, birds, flowers, flags, symbols or characters. When the movie Spiderman was released, people started painting their faces like the superhero and children usually paint their faces with comic characters like Batman, Cat woman, etc. Face painting is also interesting for youngsters who like to don new looks at various times.

The history

Though the trend has gained popularity amongst the masses in the last few years, the art of face painting has prevailed from centuries in the past. Kings and queens in the days of yore had special people appointed to entertain them. These entertainers used to paint their face and assume the role of different characters to enact, dance and sing.

We have also seen circus clowns and Kathakali performers paint their faces for stage performances. However, the only colours used by them were red, black

and white. Today, face painting has come a long way from this conventional form. New colours, new styles and new methods have changed the dimension of face painting. Golden, silver and varied hues have added an aesthetic appeal and visual splendour to this art.

The process

Deepak Nayak a face painter and, owner of Face Lift says, "Face painting is a unique art form and you have to be very careful while doing it because you are directly painting on the skin. The colours and medium used for painting have to be hygienic and skin-friendly as well." We can also prepare our own face painting material by using food colours, cream, and cornstarch. They are cheaper and can be washed easily. The brushes or sponges used for painting have to be carefully chosen and sanitised so that they do not harm the skin. Professionals do not directly start painting on the face. First they make a rough sketch on paper and only then do they go on to the face. They start with an outline of the sketch they are going to make and then fill colours in it. It is therefore advisable to get face painting done only from professionals as they have an idea about the quality of colours and the skin textures."

With face painting gaining popularity, many people are taking it up as a profession bringing in innovative and unique designs. Nayak opines, "This business has a lot of scope, especially in a place like Mumbai, where events, parties and celebrations are a common affair." Face painting can be an ideal profession for people who are inclined towards drawing and painting. Many event management companies also hire designers for face painting. So in a world of events, glamour and colour, face painting is the way to go.

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