Mirrorwork Lampshade

Among the traditional textiles of India, the art of embroidery and *Shisha* or mirror work, as it is known in India, is one of the most characteristic of Indian embroidery traditions. In areas of arid dry desert sands such as parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi, strong textile colours and shisha work can be found in most of their garments, accessories and home furnishings. The Jats of Banni (a Suni Muslim cattle rearing community), use mirror work of different shapes and sizes to embroider their fabric. Minuscule mirror embroidery is also done on heavily embroidered cloth with white thread, mingled with red, orange, blue and green, by the Garari Jat community. In Kathi embroidery of Gujarat, the mirrors are used for eyes of birds and centre of flowers.

This particular lampshade was hand embroidered with mirror work in India and is used during festivals, like Diwali (the Festival of Light).