

# The River



Nandini Majumdar  
Art: Zarina Khatun

 an eklaya  
publication  
Developed by NIRMAN

at Night

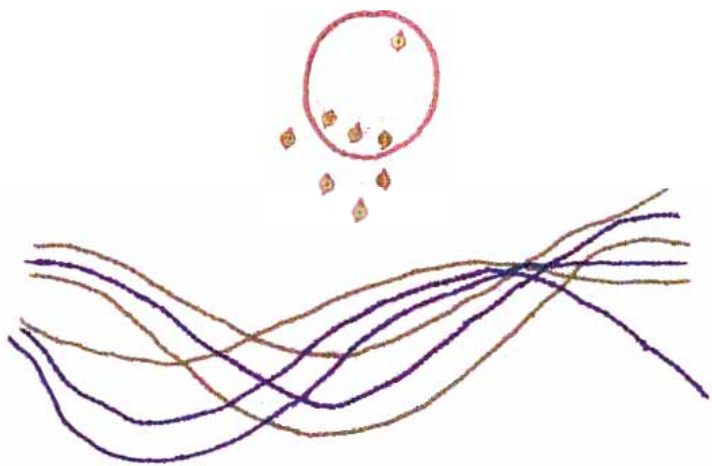


# The river at night

Nandini Majumdar  
Art: Zarina Khatun  
Developed by NIRMAN, Varanasi



an eklavya publication





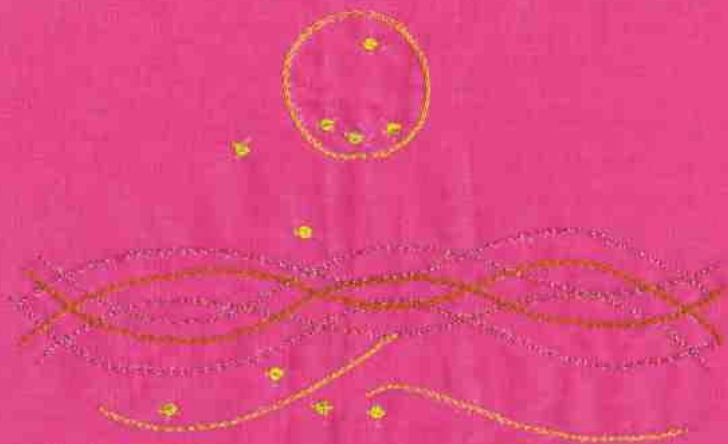
The river sleeps.



The steps sleep.



The tree sleeps.



The moon shines!





The Wind blows!

The river breathes

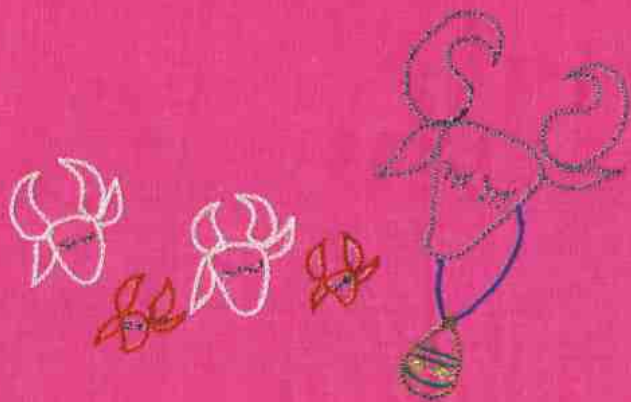


and shifts.

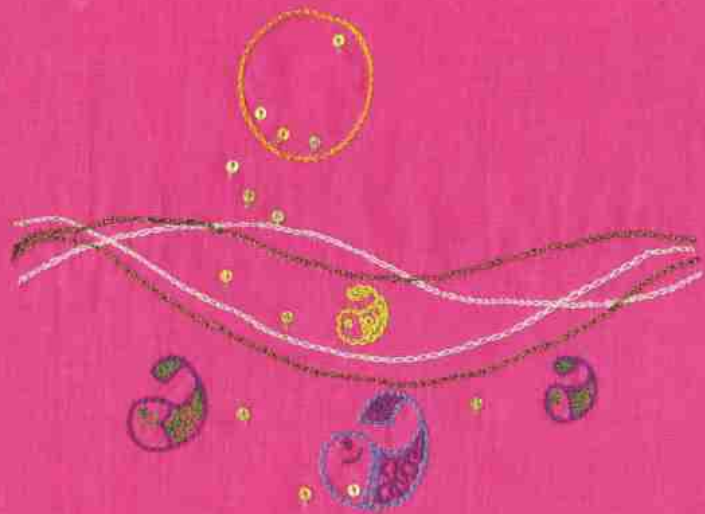
The boat bumps



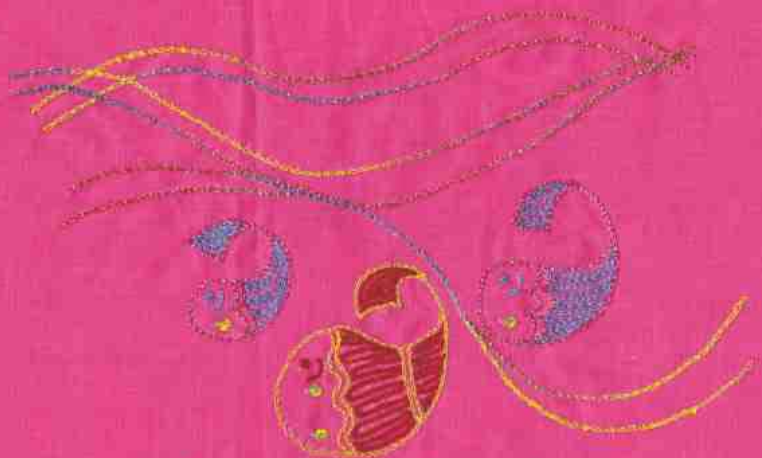
the steps.



The animals listen.

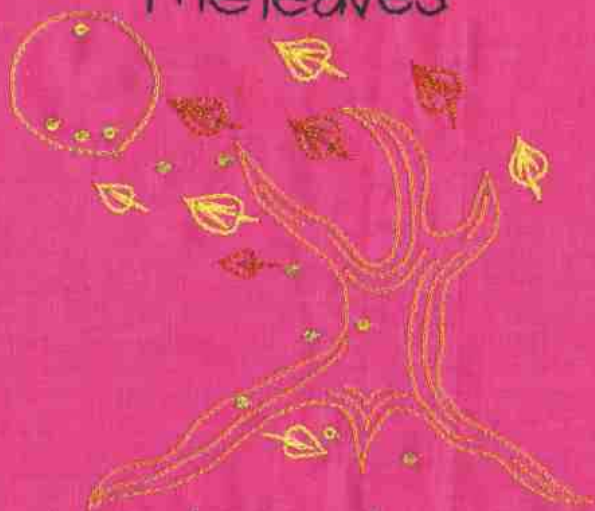


The moon watches.



The fish play!

The leaves



hymn to the moon.



Can you hear  
the music?



### **Zarina Khatun**

Zarina Khatun is a young zardozi embroiderer from Varanasi. She comes from a traditional family of weavers. As in all cottage industries, the demand for her work fluctuates. During festival periods, she works from dawn to dusk. During other times of the year, she has no work at all.

Zarina is about thirty years old. She is the sole supporter of her husband and three young children. She has been working with NIRMAN since 1988. At NIRMAN, she has taught school children her craft, embroidered cloth storybooks, and created other innovative children's products in collaboration with designers. Zarina also trains her daughter in embroidery after school. Three of her nephews and nieces attend NIRMAN's school, Vidyashram -The Southpoint School.

### **About the art**

Zardozi is a special form of embroidery from Banaras (or Varanasi) that uses spangles, beads, and the gold and silver thread called zari. The needle that manipulates the thread is long and sharply hooked at the end.

In the past, real gold, silver, and glass decorated the silk robes and saris of the wealthy. The zari thread was embroidered into floral and geometric patterns that were popular in the Mughal court. Today, plastic beads have replaced glass ones. Modern designs generated on computers supplement traditional designs. The work of zardozi embroiderers such as Zarina travels to showrooms all over the world.

### **Nandini Majumdar**

Saraswati Nandini Majumdar is a writer and musician. She works for education and the arts, with children, youth, artists, and scholars at NIRMAN ([www.nirman.info/](http://www.nirman.info/)), a non-profit NGO based in Varanasi. Apart from books for children, she has written a book of walks through Varanasi.

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What do you do at night?  
You sleep, naturally.  
And what does the river do?  
Does it sleep too?  
And the breeze?  
And the fishes?  
Find out in this beautiful book  
embroidered in Zardozi.



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