

# Palestinian Tatreez

## Art of Embroidery

Tatreez is a folk embroidery art form that originated in rural Palestine. It uses a needle and colorful thread to stitch symbolic motifs on textiles. Designs are often passed down from mother to daughter, spanning generations of Palestinian women. A long loose-fitting dresses (called "Thobe") is most commonly decorated with tatreez.



© Wafa Ghnaim, The Tatreez Institute



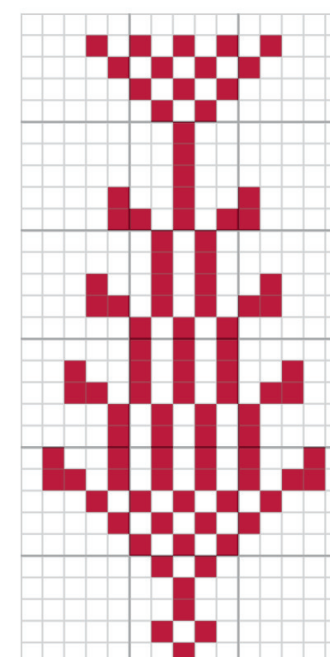
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## Stitching History

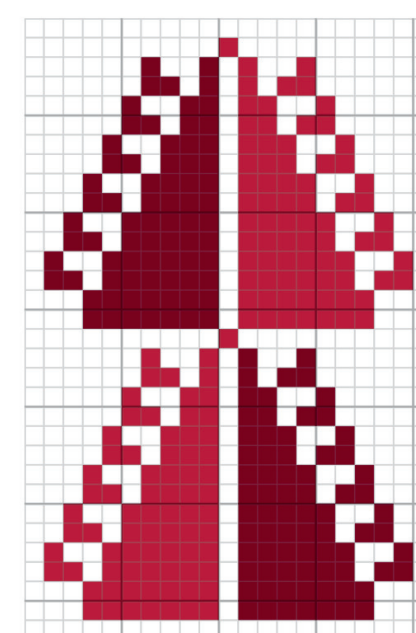
Tatreez patterns are often stitched to tell a story or commemorate an event. Patterns use nature-inspired motifs like ears of corn, olive branches, or trees indigenous to the land. Different villages have developed unique styles and colors reflecting local experiences, making it possible to trace designs back to specific communities.



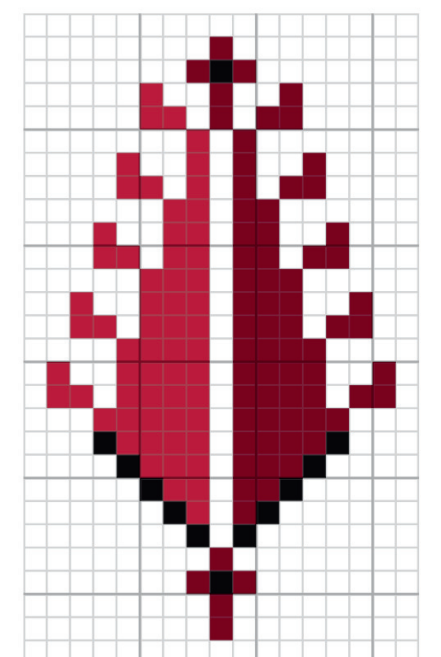
**Cypress Tree**  
(Sarw)  
Ramallah & Yaffa



**Cypress Tree**  
(Sarw)  
Al Khalil



**Cypress Tree**  
(Sarw)  
Bir Al Saba



**Cypress Tree**  
(Sarw)  
Gaza

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## Cultural Significance

Tatreez is a cherished traditional craft in the hearts of millions of Palestinians. Due to the ongoing ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people and culture, many Palestinians have made an effort to learn the craft and archive motifs in order to preserve its history. Thousands of patterns have been archived into digital libraries. In 2021, UNESCO added traditional Palestinian embroidery to its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.