

# Mask the Mask

By Pravinsinh Solanki, Kabya Shree Borgohain, Mansi Mistry

Design for Emergency  
Seed ideas



## WHOM IS IT FOR?

"The mask works two ways —not only to protect you from me, but me from you." This mask is for each and every one of us, from the civilians to the professionals. Pulling a mask on and off or fidgeting with it lessens its effectiveness. In theory, fiddling with your mask could contaminate it. Hence, this mask is for the masks that need to be kept safe and contaminant free, from me and you.

## WHY IS IT RELEVANT?

Pandemics are not new to human lives, we have always been living in a world of uncertainty and ambiguity. As we move every step towards the future, we have built assumptions and made necessary predictions. This ability to thrive, has also driven human species with more curiosity, and we have only grown creatively in order to find the 'new'. While we are meant to fight, adapt to recreate solutions with the current situation of Covid19 world wide, it is important for us to reflect on sustainable approaches to coexist in nature.

**Mask the Mask is statement of perceptivity about inclusivity of our living cultures, traditional practices and our ecology in difficult times.**

Making mask is one of the most popular traditional craft practice in Majuli, anriverisl and in Assam, India. These mask are significant to Sattras

- a devotional space and holds beliefs of keeping the evil spirits away. Performers wear them in religious dances and dramas. They represents puranic characters and hence helps to associate with the expressions of mythical heroes and devils.

The traditional techniques used in making these mask, inspires this project to create a design that balances psychological, emotional and physical connect with a product of use. The bamboo structures in the design, connects a second layer of OHP sheets to ensure special protection. It aims to uplift the emotional wellbeing of the users, and reliance on goodness of natural material. The material is biodegradable and design is reusable, making it viable and reducing the risk of wastage. Special treatment with aroma and fragrance can create better experience of using the product for the user.

India being the second largest bamboo producer in the world along with diverse cultural heritage offers meaningful possibilities of design interventions through craft. This also creates opportunities for the craftsman to earn a living and also conserve their traditional practice.

Post Pandemic, Mask the Masks will be symbolic of remembering the roots and need of inclusivity while adapting to an unpredictable and volatile world of the future.

## WHAT IS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE IDEA?

Bamboo craftsman  
Bamboo  
Basic tools  
OHP Sheets  
Workshop

## WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE?

Product designers  
Industrial designers  
Artisans  
Enterprise working with bamboo  
Museum Designers



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<https://bijitdutta.wordpress.com/2014/03/13/mask-of-samaguri-sattra-majuli/>

The Making



<http://www.natgeotraveller.in/the-mask-making-traditions-of-assams-majuli-island/>

The Inspiration



<https://www.socialnews.xyz/2020/04/06/odisha-govt-tells-people-to-wear-masks-outside-homes/>

The Implementation

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