



PHD JOURNEY

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This document outlines the developmental trajectory of my doctoral research interest in traditional art forms, material culture, and cultural authenticity. My academic inquiry emerges from sustained international teaching experience, intercultural fieldwork, and engagement with global artisan practices. Across Brazil, the United States, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia, I encountered diverse manifestations of cultural heritage, each shaped by historical context, sociocultural identity, and contemporary pressures such as touristification and commodification.

The central problem informing my research is the tension between cultural preservation and global consumption. Traditional art forms operate as carriers of identity, collective memory, and intangible cultural knowledge. However, increased tourism and global market demand contribute to shifts in production, meaning, and perceived authenticity. These dynamics raise critical questions regarding the future of cultural heritage in an interconnected world. As an artist-researcher-teacher, I approach this inquiry through an arts-based methodological lens, integrating A/R/Tography, visual ethnography, and material culture analysis.

My pedagogy within international schools further informs my research questions, particularly as students engage with cultural narratives, symbolic languages, and heritage traditions. These classroom experiences serve as practice-based research contexts, revealing the educational potential of culturally grounded art instruction. The evolution of this PhD direction is supported by continuous documentation of field observations, artisan interviews, museum analyses, and comparative cultural encounters. The research aligns with global frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals—specifically SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

This academic trajectory reflects an intentional effort to contribute to scholarship in arts education, cultural heritage studies, and material culture research. My long-term objective is to develop frameworks that support culturally sustainable educational practices and promote deeper understanding of traditional art forms within contemporary society