



The Arts of Leather

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A living matter that the passage of time renders even more beautiful, the leather is inextricable from Morocco from the 14th Century, a time in which Europe showed great interest in the great work of our artisans. They even attributed the name “maroquinerie” (leatherwork) to the products made of leather.

Leather is related to many fields; its flexibility and robustness bring wonders. Every skin variety has a particular usage, in respect to its own qualities: Lambskin, renowned for its finesse, is the most suitable for making clothes.

The cowhide, being thicker, is more suitable for making luggage, coats and slippers. The goat leather, since it is rougher, makes very good poufs. Nevermind the type of skin, the artisans out-challenge themselves to give us the best.

With the embroidery on leather, the techniques and creativity is increasingly refined. Embroidery, excision, skinning. The innovation of artisans seems to be unlimited. In Marrakech, there is the embroidery of colour or the thin leather straps, horse or camel saddles as well as ceremonial harnesses. In Fes, the gilding on leather; in Rabat, embossed leather.



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The “Baboucherie” (Babouche making)

The traditional Moroccan babouche is simple: it is constituted of a goat leather upper and a calf leather heel-less sole. The seams are made from hemp and silk thread.

In the city, men essentially wear pointed toe babouches; meanwhile, in the countryside, for convenience reasons, the babouches have a round toe.

For women, there is much more choice: velvet babouches with a light heel for the inside, red or black leather babouches for the daily life, and babouches embroidered with silk, gold and silver, in different colours, for great occasions.

From a traditional sartorial element, the babouche quickly becomes the fashionable accessory that men and women like to wear, opting for a casual, elegant or simply exotic style.



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Excised Leather (Takhchart)

We can find in Morocco raw, embroidered, and also excised leather : the dyed full-grain leather is removed in certain places using a sharp instrument, to reveal the lower layer of an almost white beige, in order to form stylized flora or even polygonal interlacing.





Traditional Saddlery

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An essential equipment for the rider, the traditional saddle is given the same respect as love for the horse or fantasia.

It all starts with the design of the patterns of the saddle (the visible part), which are sent to embroiderers in Fes' region.



Made of silk, gold or silver thread, the embroidery is entrusted to the expert hands of artisans.

When the embroidered pieces are finished, after several months, the saddler assembles them. Leather, velvet, felt, buckles and metal rings

To which are added two essential ingredients: patience and passion.