The background Kolam is known as the Vine Creeper. This Kolam is a variation on the Anklets of Krishna design. The designs incorporate ideas that are comparable with those found in the subcontinent. It dates, perhaps, as far back as 2500 B.C.E. Traditionally, colored rice flour is used by girls and women to create designs on the floors of prayer rooms, courtyards and thresholds. A symmetric grid of dots is created and the flour is poured, either connecting the dots or woven between the dots, to create various designs. The Art of Rice Flour Painting by Rhiannon Roselle. For more information:

Poster design by Elizabeth Holmes Clark, 2008. Co-sponsored by the History of Mathematics Special Interest Group of the MAA. Poster created by Amy Shell-Gellasch. Special thanks to Marcia Ascher and Darrah Chavey. 

Presented by the Mathematical Association of America