



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Arts

THE ART TRADITIONS OF INDIA

KEY WORDS: Mithila Painting, Warli painting, Pattachitra painting, Kalighat Painting, Mughal Miniature Painting, Kalamkari Painting, Gond painting, Phad Painting, Tanjore Painting, Pithoro Painting, Dhokra casting, Terracotta.

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ABSTRACT

Indian art and culture is a rich tapestry of diverse styles, traditions, and art forms that have evolved over thousands of years. From ancient rock paintings and temple carvings to modern contemporary art, Indian art has always been a reflection of the country's diverse culture, history, and religious beliefs.

INTRODUCTION

The earliest forms of Indian Art originated back in around 3500 BC and the history of these forms have been greatly affected by the cultural as well as religious aspects. The different culture of the country has its impactful engrave on the tasteful perfect works of art, be it paintings, sculptures, writings or musical works. Having been eminently favored with a beautiful scene and a wonderful history, India is famous as a sparkling combination of spiritual as well as modern. The roots of Indian Art discover their way back in the roots of civilization. It was when the Indus Valley Civilization comes its peak that most Indian art forms are accepted to be begun. Different painting styles are predominant over different regions, each representing tradition, customs, and philosophies passed on from one generation to other. Traditionally, most of the Indian painting styles existed as wall paintings or murals. Indian painting styles are not just a reflection of the indigenous lifestyle but a perfect example of artistic expression through straightforward however particular compositions.

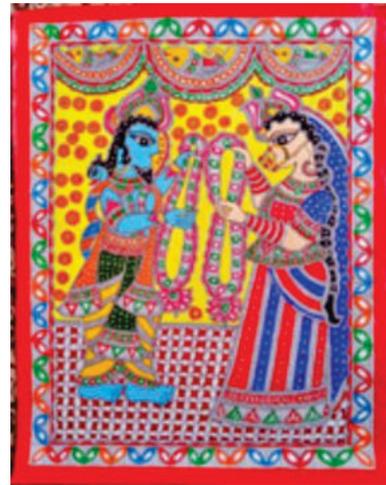
Painting Tradition

Among the many popular traditions of painting, Mithila or Madhubani painting of Bihar, Warli painting of Maharashtra, Pata Chitra of Odisha, Kalighat painting from West Bengal, Mughal Miniature Painting, Kalamkari Painting of Andhra Pradesh, Gond Paintings of Madhya Pradesh, Phad Painting from Rajasthan, Tanjore Painting of Tamil Nadu, Pithoro Painting of Gujarat etc., are the painting tradition of India.

1. Mithila Painting

The most known modern painterly art forms are Mithila art that derives its name from Mithila. Also called Madhubani painting. Madhubani painting is a conventional art form from the Mithila region of Bihar, India. It is characterized by its striking and dynamic colors, geometric patterns, and complicated points of interest. The paintings are traditionally done on the walls of homes, utilizing natural colors and pigments made from plants and flowers such as marigold, minerals, and even cow dung. There are three fundamental subjects in Madhubani art: religion, social scenes and elements of nature. It is presumed that for centuries, women living in this region have painted figures and designs on the walls of their mud houses for ceremonial occasions, particularly, weddings. These paintings are largely painted in three areas of the house: central or outer courtyards, eastern part of the house. The most exceptional and colourful painting, however, is done in the part of the house known as inner room and images of gods and goddesses are painted on freshly plastered walls of the room.

Among other themes that are painted are from the Bhagavat Purana, Ramayana, stories of Shiva-Parvati, Durga, Kali and Rasa-Lila of Radha and Krishna.



Mithila Painting (1)

Mithila artists do not like empty spaces. They fill in the whole space gorgeously with components from nature like birds, flowers, animals, fish, snakes, the Sun and the moon, which often have typical expectation, signifying love, passion, fertility, eternity, well-being and prosperity.

2. Warli Painting

Warli painting is a traditional art form from the Warli tribe of Maharashtra, India. It is characterized by its basic and moderate fashion, with paintings typically depicting everyday life like farming, dancing, hunting, praying etc and rituals of the Warli tribe. Warli paintings were usually made by married women to celebrate a wedding, and they were also used to decorate huts of the Warli tribes. The paintings are done utilizing a white pigment made from a mixture of water and rice paste, applied to mud walls of tribal houses to mark celebrations of harvests or weddings. Warli painting is straightforward and direct, with most extreme utilize of triangular shapes. They draw inspiration from every life for their themes. The most important aspect of the painting is that it does not depict mythological characters or images of deities, but social life such as nature and human form.



Warli Painting (2)

3. Pattachitra Painting

Pattachitra is a traditional style of painting from the state of Odisha. It is dedicated to mythological and religious themes in Indian art and characterized by its intricate and detailed depiction of Hindu deities and mythological scenes, utilizing dynamic colors and gold leaf. The Pattachitra artists also paint their themes on wooden boxes, on bowls, on tassar silk, on outer shells of the coconut, and on wooden doors.

The paintings are typically done on cloth or palm leaves, using natural dyes and pigments but now done on paper as well. Puri patas or paintings evidently acquire their claim to recognition from the temple city of Puri in Odisha. Pattachitra paintings often feature elaborate and ornate details, and are known for their depiction of the Hindu god Jagannath and his temple in Puri. A range of themes are painted, such as the daily and festival veshas of Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra (e.g., Bada Shringara Vesha, Raghunatha Vesha, Padma Vesha, Krishna-Balarama Vesha, Hariharan Vesha, etc. Krishna Leela and Lord Jagannath are important motifs. Patachitra painting style, which is admired by art lovers across the world.



Pattachitra Painting (3)

4. Kalighat Painting

The Kalighat painting traditional style of Indian painting was created around Mid-19th century in the neighborhoods of Kali Temple in Kolkata, West Bengal. The paintings are characterized by their utilize of shining and dynamic colors, basic and naive style, and depiction of everyday life and cultural traditions. Kalighat paintings regularly highlight Hindu deities and mythological scenes, as well as social and cultural occasions. The paintings are traditionally done on paper, utilizing natural colors and pigments, and are known for their bold and expressive style. Silver and golden colours were too utilized for ornamentation. The swift, seamless, free-flowing outline is a recognized characteristic of Kalighat style of paintings. Kalighat painting is considered a vital portion of the cultural heritage of Kolkata, and is still effectively practiced nowadays.



Kalighat Painting (4)

5. Mughal Miniature Painting

Mughal miniature painting is a traditional style of Indian painting that developed during the Mughal Empire (1526-1857). It is recognized as an important point of reference in the history of Indian art. It developed into a distinct style with a

combination of Islamic, Persian and Indian elements. Fine brushwork, intricacy, detailing and stylization are the unique attributes of miniature painting. Mineral colors, valuable stones, conch shells, gold and silver are used in the miniatures. The paintings are characterized by their small size, point by point and intricate style, and utilize of dynamic colors and gold leaf. These paintings were done on items which were perishables like paper, cloth, leaves etc.



Miniature Painting (5)

6. Gond Painting

Gond painting is a traditional art form from the Gond tribal community of Madhya Pradesh, India. Gond paintings made with a series of intricately arranged dots and dashes were developed by the Gondi tribe.

The tribals reproduce mythological tales and verbal histories to traditional songs, natural environment, important occasions and rituals in with great intricacy, rich detailing, and shinning colors. Traditionally, colors were derived from natural resources like cow dung, plant sap, charcoal, coloured soil, mud, flowers, leaves etc. The utilize of striking colors such as white, red, blue, and yellow to portray horses, elephants, tigers, birds, gods, men, and everyday objects is one of the most remarkable elements of Gond paintings. Gond artists now use commercial water-based colors to paint on paper and canvas. Gond paintings are ordinarily done on walls, utilizing natural colors and pigments. In today's times, Gond art has moved past being a tribal art style with nameless artists to having internationally acclaimed artists.



Gond Painting (6)

7. Kalamkari Painting

Kalamkari is a traditional style of painting and printing fabric, characterized by its intricate and detailed hand-painted designs. The word "Kalamkari" means "pen craft," as the designs are created using a pen-like tool known as a "kalam." Only natural colors are used in Kalamkari, which is an ancient

style of hand painting done on cotton or silk fabric with a tamarind pen. This organic art of hand and block printing has survived generations in Andhra Pradesh and is now popular all over the nation. Kalamkari represents Motifs like peacock, flora, and depictions from Hindu epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata.



Kalamkari Painting (7)

8. Phad Painting

Phad painting is a traditional art form from the state of Rajasthan, India. The Phad scrolls show depictions of battlefields, adventure stories, incredible romances and the richness of the Indian princely states. Phad paintings are created on hand-woven coarse cotton cloth, which is soaked overnight to thicken the threads. It is then stiffened with starch from rice or wheat flour, stretched, dried in the sun and rubbed with a moonstone to smoothen the surface and give it sheen. The paintings are done utilizing a combination of natural colors and mineral pigments. It is characterized by its large size and narrative style, with paintings depicting the stories of the Hindu god Pabuji and other local heroes. Phad paintings are known for their shining and dynamic colors and depiction of mythological and historical occasions. The Phad painting style leaves one spellbound at how the folk artists accommodate numerous stories in a single composition, yet maintain the aesthetics of artistic expression.



Phad Painting (8)

9. Tanjore Painting

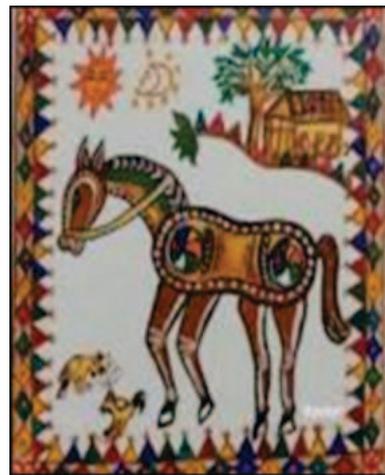
Tanjore painting is a traditional art form from the city of Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, India. It is known for its wonderful embellishments, vibrant colours and rich surfaces. The themes are basically centered on the Hindu gods and goddesses. These paintings are made on wooden planks, and the main subjects are continuously painted in the centre. Tanjore paintings typically depict Hindu deities, and are done on wood, utilizing natural colors and pigments.



Tanjore Painting (9)

10. Pithoro Painting

Pithoro painting is a traditional art form from the state of Gujarat, India. It is a frame of mural painting, typically done on the walls of homes and temples. These wall murals are created as offerings to Pithoro, the God of food grains. They are typically done by members of the Bhil tribal community, and are considered to bring good luck and prosperity to the home or temple. They are traditionally done to seek blessings before a special occasion such as a wedding, the birth of a child or a festival. Pithoro paintings are known for their bright and vibrant colors, and are often created using natural colors and pigments.



Pithoro Painting (10)

Sculptural Traditions

Sculptural tradition is a term for the popular Indian tradition of making sculptures using stones, clay, or metals. There are numerous such traditions across the country.

1. Dhokra Casting

The popular sculptural traditions, Dhokra or metal sculptures technique is one of the most famous metal crafts of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telengana and West Bengal. Dhokra casting has been utilized in India for over 4,000 a long time and is still utilized. This craft dates back to pre-historic times of the Harappa and Mohenjodaro Civilizations. Dhokra is an excellent, ancient craft and amongst the oldest traditional techniques of metal casting in India. It is a non ferrous metal casting of bronze through the lost wax method. Dhokra is an alloy of nickel, brass and zinc. Dhokra Damar tribes are the main traditional metal smiths of Odisha and West Bengal. Their technique of lost wax casting is named after their tribe, hence Dhokra metal casting. The tribe expands from Jharkhand to West Bengal and Odisha; members are distant cousins of the Chhattisgarh Dhokras. The

product of Dhokra artisans are in awesome demand in domestic and foreign markets because of primitive simplicity, enchanting folk motifs and forceful form. Dhokra horses, elephants, peacocks, owls, religious images, measuring bowls, and lamp caskets etc., are highly appreciated. There are two main processes of lost wax casting: solid casting and hollow casting. Solid casting does not utilize a clay core but instead a solid piece of wax to create the mould; hollow casting is the more traditional method and employs the clay core.



Dhokra Crafted Bull (1)

2. Terracotta

The more omnipresent sculptural medium predominant over the nation is terracotta. Terracotta is a sort of clay-based ceramic that is fired at low temperatures. It can be glazed or unglazed, and is frequently utilized to make pottery, statues, building materials, sculptures, brick, tile, planters, and garden and architectural ware. Usually, made by potters, terracotta pieces are offered to local deities or utilized amid ceremonies and celebrations. Terracotta is made from a mixture of clay and water, and is a natural and recyclable material.

The terracotta pieces are heated for toughness.

There is a variety of terracotta made by individuals of diverse regions. Terracotta employs a distant less complex and speedier process for making the finished work with much lower material costs. They are moulded, modeled by hands or made on a potter's wheel, coloured or decorated. Their forms and purposes are frequently comparable. They are either the images of gods or goddesses. Like Ganesh, Durga or the local deity, animals, birds, insects, etc.



Terracotta Product (2)

Conclusion

Traditional Indian painting styles and sculptural traditions are a testament to the vibrant and diverse culture of India. Mithila, Warli and Pattachitra, Kalighat, Miniature, Gond, Kalamkari, Phad, Tanjore, Pithoro and Dhokra casting, Terracotta are these art forms showcase the artistic traditions, spiritual beliefs, and everyday life of the country.

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