

Division of Indian traditional paintings

FOLK ART

- ☐ Focuses the international market
- ☐ Traditional aesthetic sensibility and authenticity.
- ☐ bear distinctive colorful designs
- ☐ Treated with religious and mystical motifs.
- ☐ Example: the Madhubani paintings of Bihar, Patachitra paintings from the state of Odisha,
Nirmal paintings of Andhra Pradesh
- ☐ Not restricted only to paintings, but also stretches to other art forms such as pottery, home decorations, ornaments, cloths-making, and so on

TRIBAL ART

- ☐ Reflects the creative energy found in rural areas that acts as an undercurrent to the craftsmanship of the tribal people.
- ☐ A wide range of art forms, such as wall paintings, tribal dances, tribal music, and so on.
- ☐ Drawn by ethnic human tribes
- ☐ Have been taught from generation to generation
- ☐ Depicts human cycles and core of our existence
- ☐ Main theme: life, birth, death, marriages, farming, celebrations, harvesting, FIVE elements of Mother Nature.
- ☐ Differ from region to region and style to style.

TYPES OF FOLK ART

1. Tanjore Art

Folk art is linked with the forgotten art of storytelling. Paintings are used to depict the visual counterpoint in narration in every region of India.

Art forms of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Bengal narrate the myths and legends of local heroes and deities and construct a kaleidoscopic image of our glorious past and rich cultural heritage.

Each work is a complete narration in itself, giving us a glimpse of the past, which has been kept alive by talent and devotion of our artists.

2. Madhubani Painting

Madhubani painting, also referred to as Mithila Art (as it flourishes in the Mithila region of Bihar), is characterized by line drawings filled in by bright colours and contrasts or patterns.

This style of painting has been traditionally done by the women of the region, though today men are also involved to meet the demand.

These paintings are popular because of their tribal motifs and use of bright earthy colours.

These paintings are done with mineral pigments prepared by the artists. The work is done on freshly plastered or a mud wall

Warli Folk Painting

Maharashtra is known for its Warli folk paintings. Warli is the name of the largest tribe found on the northern outskirts of Mumbai, in Western India.

Despite being in such close proximity of the largest metropolis in India, Warli tribesmen shun all influences of modern urbanization. Warli Art was first discovered in the early seventies.

While there are no records of the exact origins of this art, its roots may be traced to as early as the 10th century A.D.

Warli is the vivid expression of daily and social events of the Warli tribe of Maharashtra, used by them to embellish the walls of village houses depicting agriculture, hunting, fishing, etc. geometric pattern are used.

This was the only means of transmitting folklore to a populace not acquainted with the written word. This art form is simple in comparison to the vibrant paintings of Madhubani

Attachitra Painting:

Pattachitra style of painting is one of the oldest and most popular art forms of Odisha. The name Pattachitra has evolved from the Sanskrit words patta, meaning canvas, and chitra, meaning picture.

Pattachitra is thus a painting done on canvas, and is manifested by rich colourful application, creative motifs and designs, and portrayal of simple themes, mostly mythological in depiction.

Some of the popular themes represented through this art form are ThiaBadhia - depiction of the temple of Jagannath; Krishna Lila - enactment of Jagannath as Lord Krishna displaying his powers as a child;

Dasabatara Patti - the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu; Panchamukhi - depiction of Lord Ganesh as a five headed deity

Rajasthani Miniature Painting

The art of Miniature painting was introduced to the land of India by the Mughals, who brought the much-revealed art form from Persia.

In the sixteenth century, the Mughal ruler Humayun brought artists from Persia, who specialized in miniature painting.

The succeeding Mughal Emperor, Akbar built an atelier for them to promote the rich art form. These artists, on their part, trained Indian artists who produced paintings in a new distinctive style, inspired by the royal and romantic lives of the Mughals.

The particular miniature produced by Indian artists in their own style is known as Rajput or Rajasthani miniature.

During this time, several schools of painting evolved, such as Mewar (Udaipur), Bundi, Kotah, Marwar (Jodhpur), Bikaner, Jaipur, and Kishangarh.

Kalamezhuthu

Names like Rangoli, Kolam etc are not new to us, and neither is the tradition of drawing them at the entrance of homes and temples.

In fact it is part of the domestic routine in Hindu households, who consider it auspicious to draw certain patterns at the doorstep and courtyard to welcome a deity into the house.

This art form is a harmonious blend of Aryan, Dravidian and Tribal traditions. Kalam (Kalamezhuthu) is unique form of this art found in Kerala.

It is essentially a ritualistic art practiced in temples and sacred groves of Kerala where the representation of deities like Kali and Lord Ayyappa, are made on the floor.

TYPES OF TRIBAL ART:

1. Saura Painting:

- ☐ One of the oldest tribal paintings
- ☐ Famous in eastern India, originally from Orissa
- ☐ Also known as 'ikon'
- ☐ Painted On walls
- ☐ Figures like: human beings, Sun, Moon, elephants, horses,
- ☐ Has religious importance

Pithora Paintings

- ☐ Worship wedding Goddess or deity 'Pithora'
- ☐ Of Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat
- ☐ Pithora's images on walls
- ☐ Occasions like wedding and its ceremonies
- ☐ Considered as auspicious, bring good luck & success to the family

Pichwali Paintings

- ☐ Famous in Vaishnu's Temples.
- ☐ Of Rajasthan and other states of North India
- ☐ Made on cloth using dark and primary colours.
- ☐ Behind the statues of Lord Krishna
- ☐ Theme is various moods and dresses of Lord Krishna
- ☐ Use at various celebrations and festivals

Santhal Paintings

- ☐ Tribes of Eastern Zone Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal
- ☐ Main theme: Rituals, celebrations, merry making, family functions, dance, harvest, of Hindu Deities.
- ☐ Free hands and reflects perceptions of life
- ☐ Handmade papers with poster colours