

Session 3- SLO 1 & 2

Buddhism in Sculptures: Buddhist sculpture evolved from aniconic to iconic forms, eventually depicting the Buddha in human form. Early examples like the Sanchi Stupa display the Buddha's presence through symbols such as the lotus, wheel, and throne. As the faith spread, Gandhara and Mathura became important centers of Buddhist art, combining Hellenistic and Indian influences. Sculptures often served as devotional objects, embodying the teachings of the Buddha and serving as a focal point for meditation and veneration.

Hinduism in Sculptures: Hindu sculpture is deeply tied to its vast pantheon of gods and goddesses, each with distinct iconographies. Temple sculptures often depict narratives from sacred texts like the Mahabharata and Ramayana or the cosmic activities of deities. The sculptures are not merely decorative; they are integral to the act of worship, believed to be abodes of the divine when ritually consecrated. The intricate carvings and symbolic gestures (mudras) in these sculptures serve both artistic and religious functions.

Jainism in Sculptures: Jain sculptures emphasize the principles of ahimsa (non-violence) and asceticism. Tirthankara statues, often depicted in meditation, are central in Jain art. The portrayal of these figures is marked by a sense of calm and detachment, reflecting the Jain pursuit of liberation from the cycle of rebirth. The art is austere yet detailed, aligning with the religion's values of simplicity and self-discipline. Jain temples, like those at Mount Abu, are celebrated for their elaborate carvings and architectural sophistication.

When discussing these religions and their artistic representations, we considered the shared cultural context in which they developed. While each had distinct theological beliefs and aesthetic traditions, there was also significant cultural and artistic exchange among them. Sculptures and rock-cut architecture, for example, were forms that all three religions adopted and adapted for their purposes, often employing the same guilds of artisans. This resulted in stylistic similarities, even as the iconography and themes remained distinct.

Session 4- SLO 1

Quiz

Q1 - Option: B

Q2 - Option: D

Q3 - Option: D

Session 4- SLO 2

Peer Discussion

The creation of cupules, which are primitive forms of rock art, dates back to prehistoric times. Here are some brief points on the topic, which can be elaborated upon in a peer discussion setting:

1. When Were Cupules Made?

- Cupules are believed to be among the oldest forms of rock art, with some dating back to the Lower Paleolithic era, around 700,000 BCE.

2. What Are the Main Characteristics of Cupules?

- Cupules are simple, non-figurative forms, typically hemispherical carvings on rock surfaces.

3. Where Do Cupules Occur?

- They are found globally, often in caves or other shelters with significant prehistoric presence, like those in Madhya Pradesh, India.

4. What Are the Oldest Known Cupules?

- The oldest known cupules have been discovered in India, within the Bhimbetka rock shelters.

5. What is the Purpose of Cupules? Why Were They Made?

- The purpose remains speculative, ranging from symbolic representation, ritualistic practices, to simply artistic expression.

These discussions can lead to a deeper understanding of the historical context and cultural significance of cupules in ancient art forms.