**Mysore painting** ([Kannada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kannada_language): ಮೈಸೂರು ಚಿತ್ರಕಲೆ) is an important form of classical [South Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_India) painting that originated in and around the town of [Mysore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysore) in [Karnataka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka) encouraged and nurtured by the Mysore rulers. Painting in Karnataka has a long and illustrious history, tracing its origins back to the [Ajanta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ajanta_Caves) times (2nd century B.C. to 7th century A.D.)

Mysore paintings are known for their elegance, muted colours, and attention to detail. The themes for most of these paintings are [Hindu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu) gods and goddesses and scenes from [Hindu mythology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu_mythology).

**Making Mysore Paintings**

A number of steps are involved in the process of producing a Mysore painting. The first step requires the artist to make a preliminary sketch of the image on the base, which comprises of a cartridge paper pasted on a wooden base. Thereafter, he makes a paste of zinc oxide and Arabic gum, known as 'gesso paste'. This paste is used to give a slightly raised effect of carving to those parts of the painting that require embellishments and is allowed to dry. Then, gold foil is pasted onto the surface. The rest of the painting is prepared with the help of watercolors. After the painting is fully dried, it is covered with a thin paper and rubbed lightly with a smooth soft stone.

