

# AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN ART

## PART II

Textbook in Fine Arts  
for Class XII



12144

विद्यया ऽ मृतमश्नुते



एन सी ई आर टी  
NCERT

राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद्  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

2024-25



**12144 – AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN ART**

Textbook for Class XII

**ISBN- 978-93-5292-337-3****First Edition***August 2020 Bhadrapada 1942***Reprinted***December 2021 Agrahayana 1943**March 2024 Chaitra 1946***PD 10T SU****© National Council of Educational  
Research and Training, 2020****₹ 175.00***Printed on 80 GSM paper with NCERT  
watermark*

Published at the Publication Division  
by the Secretary, National Council of  
Educational Research and Training,  
Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi 110016  
and printed at Dee Kay Printers, 5/34,  
Industrial Area, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi  
110 015

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

- ❑ No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the publisher.
- ❑ This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise disposed of without the publisher's consent, in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published.
- ❑ The correct price of this publication is the price printed on this page. Any revised price indicated by a rubber stamp or by a sticker or by any other means is incorrect and should be unacceptable.

**OFFICES OF THE PUBLICATION  
DIVISION, NCERT**

NCERT Campus  
Sri Aurobindo Marg  
New Delhi 110 016 Phone : 011-26562708

108, 100 Feet Road  
Hosdakere Halli Extension  
Banashankari III Stage  
Bengaluru 560 085 Phone : 080-26725740

Navjivan Trust Building  
P.O.Navjivan  
Ahmedabad 380 014 Phone : 079-27541446

CWC Campus  
Opp. Dhankal Bus Stop  
Panihati  
Kolkata 700 114 Phone : 033-25530454

CWC Complex  
Maligaon  
Guwahati 781 021 Phone : 0361-2674869

**Publication Team**

Head, Publication Division : *Anup Kumar Rajput*

Chief Editor : *Shveta Uppal*

Chief Production Officer : *Arun Chitkara*

Chief Business Manager (Incharge) : *Amitabh Kumar*

Assistant Production Officer : *Sunil Kumar*

**Cover and Layout Design***Ritu Topa*

## FOREWORD

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), being at the helm of school education in India, has taken the initiative of developing the curriculum and syllabi in different art related areas for higher classes, especially, since the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)–2005 came into practice. There has been a noticeable shift in the development of textbooks, their presentation, interdisciplinary approach, typology of exercises, etc.

The National Education Policy (NEP)–2020, too, recommends that students will be given increased flexibility and a wide choice of subjects to study, particularly, at the secondary school stage, including subjects of art and craft, so that they can design their own paths of study and life plans. Therefore, at the senior secondary stage, which is also the school leaving stage, they should have more options to explore in different fields of higher or professional education.

At this stage of education, emphasis has been laid on professional approach towards the subject of visual or fine arts, making it a discipline rather than only creating awareness and knowledge, which is generic in nature till the secondary classes. The learning objectives also shift towards sharpening of skills in fine arts and developing a perspective in design, instead of free expression and doing arts in the early stages of education. There has been an emphasis on students' expressing themselves in their own language and medium. Also, there has been a need to develop a historical perspective of art in the larger context of the world, as well as, India. Art history is a part of studies in arts and a major area of education, from which the students can learn about the country's rich cultural heritage.

It was observed that many education boards offer visual or fine arts as an optional subject at the senior secondary stage, which includes painting, sculpture, applied arts or commercial arts. These were reviewed and a new syllabus was formed. Since this course apart from the practical component includes theory, which introduces students to the country's diverse historical heritage of

art and architecture, this textbook in Fine Arts has been developed for Classes XI and XII.

Our attempt is to bring a comprehensive view of the history of Indian art, and see it chronologically and in continuity with the present day. As an organisation committed to systemic reform and continuous improvement in the quality of its products, NCERT welcomes comments and suggestions, which will enable us to undertake further revision and refinement.

HRUSHIKESH SENAPATY

*Director*

New Delhi  
August 2020

National Council of Educational  
Research and Training



## PREFACE

During the British rule in the nineteenth century, few British colonial officers took active interest in studying India's past in collaboration with Indian scholars, and a systematic study of architectural monuments, sculptures and paintings began in the Indian subcontinent. With the study of religious texts, history of religion was studied and identification of icons, sculptures and paintings was initiated, which became a dominant area of early scholarship.

As the study of art history has grown out of extensive documentations and excavations, one finds description of art objects as a prominent method of study. There are few significant studies of the early twentieth century, where concerns are addressed beyond mere description. Subsequently, several generations of Western and Indian scholars of Indian art history have studied the subject at great depth, making us realise the magnificent past of the Indian civilisation reflected in the architectural monuments, sculptures and paintings. We can claim a distinct Indian approach to the arts of building edifices, sculpture making and language of painting in comparison with the European art on one hand and the far Eastern art on the other. Therefore, the Indian art historical studies have emerged as a prestigious academic discipline at university level education.

Often, the study of art objects is based on two important approaches—formalistic or stylistic analysis and content and contextual studies. The first category involves the study of formalistic characteristics of architecture, sculpture and paintings, whereas, the second concentrates on content analysis, which has several components, such as iconographic study, iconology, narratives and semiotics.

In this series of textbooks for Classes XI and XII, Class XI textbook introduces different visual art forms, such as murals, paintings, sculptures, architecture, etc., from the beginning to the medieval periods. This textbook for Class XII includes chapters on the development of painting traditions in India during the medieval and modern periods.

Considering the level of young generation learners, belonging to the higher secondary stage, the textbook outlines few examples to create an understanding of the nature of developments in Indian art.

There are eight chapters in this textbook and each deals with a particular school or period of painting and other visual arts. The first chapter talks about palm leaf manuscript painting in Western and Eastern India, which serves as a backdrop of further development in various schools of painting, discussed in the following chapters. The second chapter deals with 'The Rajasthani Schools of Painting'. Each school of Rajasthani paintings belongs to a different darbar of

a Rajput king and has unique features in its composition, colours, context and depiction of human, as well as, flora and fauna, architecture, etc. The third chapter talks about how the Mughal rule in the Indian subcontinent, in its almost 250 years, brought in a culture from Persia that amalgamated local, as well as, other foreign cultural practices and became indigenous in due course of time. The workmanship had different influences in visual features. The paintings had an array of subjects from historical texts, illustrated biographies, literary and religious manuscripts, epics, study of flora and fauna, ordinary people, etc.

Further down in Deccan provinces, painters and royal patrons developed a unique school of painting that had influences of the Mughal style. However, it was largely related to the regional cultures and heavily influenced by the Persian artistic aesthetics. The Deccani schools have been dealt with in the fourth chapter.

Almost at the same time, Himalyan kingdoms of Rajput kings in Garhwal, Kumayun, Himachal and Jammu regions gave shelter to many artists of Delhi, who beautifully adopted the local features and characters, as well as, subject in their paintings. Chapter five describes the Pahari Schools of Painting. With the crumbling of the Mughal power in northern India and coming in of British and other Europeans as traders and later becoming rulers, Indian identity once again faced the crisis. But at the same time, it absorbed new things, both in content and technique, and came up with new ideas of nationalism. The sixth chapter takes us through the journey of an artistic era with many new developments.

The new Sun of freedom shining on the country's horizon saw different modern trends, which have been highlighted in the seventh chapter. A new definition of individual artistry and experimentation became evident in the post-Independence years till date. The last chapter takes the students through the local living traditions of crafts in the country, practised by various communities over generations, passing on the unique art forms without much change in their spirit.

The textbook also carries a glossary of words and terms used in the chapters. In Bibliography, select references of books have been given, which can be beneficial for the students and teachers. Each chapter is embedded with a Quick Response (QR) code. Besides, there is a single QR code for the entire textbook.

Each chapter is illustrated with representational coloured plates, descriptions and captions. Looking at the captions of the photographs, one can learn that the works of Indian art have been displayed across the continents in numerous museums, galleries and collections. The QR codes take one to many similar visuals and one can explore a plethora of them online at the official websites of these museums.



## TEXTBOOK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### CHIEF ADVISOR

Ratan Parimoo, *Professor and Dean (Retd.)*, Faculty of Fine Arts, M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat

### ADVISOR

Nuzhat Kazmi, *Dean*, Faculty of Fine Arts, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

### MEMBERS

Komal Pande, *Assistant Curator*, National Museum, New Delhi

Parul Dave Mukharji, *Professor*, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Rita Sodha, *Assistant Professor*, Faculty of Fine Arts, M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat

### MEMBER—COORDINATOR

Jyotsna Tiwari, *Professor*, Department of Education in Arts and Aesthetics, NCERT, New Delhi







## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The NCERT expresses gratitude towards all people and institutions involved in the development of this textbook. The images used in the textbook have been sourced from various museums and collections, both public and private, located in different parts of the country and abroad. Each image carries a caption, which mentions its details, including source. The following is a list of museums and collections from where the images have been taken.

Aga Khan Museum, Canada  
Allahabad Museum, Prayagraj  
Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Pune  
Bharat Kala Bhawan, Varanasi  
British Museum, London  
Chester Beatty Library, Dublin  
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai  
Colnaghi Gallery, London  
India Office Library, British Library, London  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, USA  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna  
Museum für Islamische Kunst (The Museum of Islamic Art), Berlin  
N. C. Mehta Gallery, Ahmedabad  
National Crafts Museum and Hastakala Academy, New Delhi  
National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi  
National Museum, New Delhi  
National Museum, Prague  
Nature Morte Gallery, New Delhi  
Raja Raghubir Singh Collection, Shangiri, Kullu Valley  
The San Diego Museum of Art, California  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington D. C.  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata  
Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan

Thanks are also due to Suchita Raut, *Head*, Department of Arts and Crafts, Delhi Public School, Neelbad, Bhopal; Pragya Verma, *Deputy Secretary* (Academic), Central Board of Secondary Education; Ajit Kumar and Satish Kumar, *Research Scholars*, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and Preeti Priya, *Junior Project Fellow*, Department of Education in



Arts and Aesthetics; for providing support during the textbook development process.

We are also grateful to Shveta Uppal, *Chief Editor*, Publication Division, NCERT, for going through the manuscript and giving her valuable suggestions. Sweta Jha, *Editor* (Contractual), is appreciated for copyediting and finalising the textbook.

Thanks are due to Anita Kumari, Mohammad Atir and Sanjid Ahmad, *DTP Operators* (Contractual), for flawless layout and design.



## CONTENTS

<b>FOREWORD</b>	<i>iii</i>
<b>PREFACE</b>	<i>v</i>
1. The Manuscript Painting Tradition	1
2. The Rajasthani Schools of Painting	10
3. The Mughal School of Miniature Painting	35
4. The Deccani Schools of Painting	55
5. The Pahari Schools of Painting	67
6. The Bengal School and Cultural Nationalism	85
7. The Modern Indian Art	99
8. The Living Art Traditions of India	127
<b>GLOSSARY</b>	<i>144</i>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<i>149</i>



