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Notice these expressions in the text. Infer their meaning from the context.

- anecdote
- illusionistic likeness
- delicate realism
- conceptual space
- figurative painting

Answer:

anecdote: From the text, the meaning of anecdote can be inferred as a short account of a particular incident or event, especially of an interesting or exciting nature.

delicate realism: It refers to the alluring quality of the art which makes it seem real. It is an interest in or concern for the actual or real as opposed to abstract.

illusionistic likeness: It refers to an adjective of the technique of using pictorial methods in order to deceive the eye. The reference is to an illusion created by the semblance of something.

figurative painting: A figurative painting refers to the metaphoric representation of a piece of art, through the eyes of the creator's imagination.

conceptual space: It refers to relation with the abstract than the factual representation. This is the incalculable dimension of the understanding of concepts.

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Understanding the Text

1. (i) Contrast the Chinese view of art with the European view with examples.

(ii) Explain the concept of shanshui.

Answer:

(i) The Chinese paintings are based on imaginative, inner or spiritual approach whereas the European paintings reproduce an actual view, of an external or real object. The paintings of Wu daozi and other painters of Europe illustrate the difference.

(ii) Shanshui, meaning "mountain-water", refers to a style of Chinese painting that involves natural landscapes, the landscape which is an inner one, a spiritual and conceptual space. It represents the two complementary poles ('yin' and 'yang') reflecting the Daoist view of the universe.

2. (i) What do you understand by the terms 'outsider art' and 'art brut' or 'raw art'?

(ii) Who was the "untutored genius who created a paradise" and what is the nature of his contribution to art?

Answer:

'Outsider art' refers to those artists who have no right to be artists as they have received no formal training yet show talent and artistic insight. 'Art brut' or 'raw art' are the works of art in their raw state.

as regards cultural and artistic influences.

(ii) The “untutored genius” who created “paradise” was Nek Chand, an 80- year old creator-director who made the world famous rock garden at Chandigarh. His was an ‘outsider art’ in which he sculpted with stone and recycled materials. He used anything and everything from a tin to a sink to a broken down car to form an artistic piece. One of his famous creations are ‘Women by the Waterfall’.

Talking about the Text

Discuss the following statements in groups of four.

1. “The Emperor may rule over the territory he has conquered, but only the artist knows the way within.”

Answer:

This sentence explains the fact that even though an Emperor might rule an entire kingdom and have power over his conquered territory, only an artist would be able to go beyond any material appearance. He knows both the path and the method of the mysterious work of the universe. True meaning of his work can be seen only by means known to him, irrespective of how powerful an emperor is.

2. “The landscape is an inner one, a spiritual and conceptual space.”

Answer: This phrase explains The Chinese art from where a Chinese painter wants you to enter his mind rather than borrow his eyes.

This is a physical as well as a mental participation. It is a landscape created by the artist to travel up and down, and back again, through the viewer’s eyes. The landscape is not ‘real’ and can be reached from any point.

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