

Analysing Historical Paintings with Indian Regional Influences

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Abstract:

Indian paintings have a long and illustrious history that is firmly rooted in the history of Indian art. Even though there aren't many surviving early examples due to the difficult climate, the importance of paintings has persisted throughout the ancient, mediaeval, and modern periods. Indian paintings' origins can be traced back to the prehistoric era, starting with the age-old art of painting in caves.

Ceramics, textiles, miniature paintings, and other media have all contributed to this rich legacy's evolution before ultimately finding expression in contemporary artistic forms. Indian painting's history, from the mysterious cave paintings to the fine details of miniature paintings, captures the spirit of the country's creative and cultural development and represents a significant trip through time.

As evidenced by the remains found in caves and other textual sources, painting has been a popular art form in India since prehistoric times. The two main categories of Indian paintings are miniatures and murals. Books, paper, and linen are used for miniature paintings, whereas murals are massive pieces painted on walls and ceilings.

The evolution of Indian art is a continuous process, resulting from the blending of various traditions. Indian painting has managed to hold onto its unique style while embracing contemporary trends.

Keywords: Painting, Cave, Sites, Minerals.

INTRODUCTION

Only a few of the nation's oldest artworks have made it to the present day because of the climate. Nonetheless, sites like the Bhimbetkarock shelters feature petroglyphs and other prehistoric rock drawings from India. Stone Age rock art at the Bhimbetka rock shelters date back about 10,000 years. Indian ancient Hindu and Buddhist writings describe a number of palaces and other structures with intricate mural paintings (Chitra). The most significant of the few surviving paintings are those found in Ajanta. The practice was probably common throughout this period, even though the oldest instances of miniature painting that have survived date to the Middle Ages. When the Persian miniature collided with long-standing Indian customs during the Mughal era, a new style emerged. The business painted pictures of British customers under the British Raj. A Patua sings some 19th-century Patua Sangeet while being accompanied with a pattachitra scroll that shows Kolkata culture. The three most popular types of Indian art are paintings on fabric, murals, and miniatures. Massive pieces of art are murals, such as those seen in the Ajanta Caves and the temple of Kailashnath¹.

¹<https://artincontext.org/indian-art> Indian Art – Discover the History and Influence of Ancient Indian Art, By Isabela Meyer, Posted on June 19, 2022 Updated November 24, 2023

Usually painted on fragile materials like paper or cloth, miniature paintings are shown in books or albums. There are a number of sites with Indian rock-cut architecture that are at least 2,000 years old and have murals that resemble frescoes. The Ajanta Caves' relics from the first and fifth centuries, however, are by far the most important. An early man's existence and manner of life are revealed through stories carved into the walls of the caverns where he once resided. Even if they have deteriorated with time, these pictures nonetheless provide us with a decent understanding of our ancestors' way of life. Since then, communication has not changed despite technological advancements. Since these paintings are the main source of knowledge on ancient Indian culture, many historians and archaeologists rely significantly on them. They are found on the walls of the most notable structures in our country, as well as in temples, caverns, and other historically significant locations. Every painting is different and has a tale to tell the world. This paper attempts to illustrate some recurrent motifs used by our ancestors by citing artworks in a range of genres. In the process, we will also talk about the artistry and method used to create these works of art².

Indian paintings have a long history that is firmly rooted in the country's artistic heritage. Even though there aren't many surviving early examples due to the difficult climate, the importance of paintings has persisted throughout the ancient, mediaeval, and modern periods. Indian paintings' origins can be traced back to the prehistoric era, starting with the age-old art of painting in caves.

Ceramics, textiles, miniature paintings, and other media have all contributed to this rich legacy's evolution before ultimately finding expression in contemporary artistic forms. Indian painting's history, from the mysterious cave paintings to the fine details of miniature paintings, captures the spirit of the country's creative and cultural development and represents a significant trip through time. The art forms that will be discussed in this article include prehistoric art, cave art, temple art, Mughal art, and paintings that were influenced by Indian locations³.

Evolution of Paintings in India: Background

Primitive rock paintings at locations like Bhimbetka, Mirzapur, and Panchmarhi provide the earliest indication of painting in India. These 2,000-year-old drawings provide insight into the creative expressions of prehistoric societies. Indian paintings have been influenced by social, cultural, and religious factors over the course of their history. The rich fabric of Indian art still includes spiritual themes, symbolism, and a link to old traditions. Indian paintings' legacy is still developing, representing the rich cultural legacy of the nation⁴.

Classification of Paintings in India

A rich cultural heritage is reflected in the variegated tapestry of Indian paintings. Religious stories are told through murals, like the elaborate frescoes found in the Ajanta caves. The Mughal era is known for its miniature paintings, which feature fine details. Pattachitra and Kalamkari are examples of cloth paintings that combine vivid imagery and narrative. While Rajput paintings use vibrant colours to emphasise regional uniqueness, Tantra art explores spiritual issues.

While contemporary Indian art examines identity and global challenges, the Bengal School brings back ancient forms. India's art, which stretches from ancient rock paintings to contemporary manifestations,

2 <https://www.studyiq.com/> Evolution of Paintings in India, Types, Features, Examples, Published On December 1st, 2023.

3 <https://www.researchgate.net/> A Study of Historical Paintings Inspired by Indian Regions, October 2022.

4 <https://vajiramandravi.com/> Indian Paintings, History, Names, Types, Famous Paintings List, 28-08-2024.

creates a vibrant story through time and cultural influences despite the country's harsh climate⁵.

Prehistoric Paintings

Prehistoric paintings offer an intriguing window into prehistoric artistic expressions and may be found in places like the Bhimbetka Caves, Jogimara Caves, and Narsingarh Caves. These Petroglyphs, which include the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Chalcolithic periods, demonstrate the changing colours and sizes of prehistoric artworks and include a variety of subjects and themes.

Petroglyphs in Caves⁶:

Early artwork from prehistoric times made on cave rocks.

Petroglyphs are artwork that display rudimentary creative emotions.

Important Topics: Animals such as deer, cattle, rhinoceroses, elephants, and snakes.

Recurring motifs include elements of nature, including vegetation.

Periods: The Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and Chalcolithic periods are the three divisions of prehistoric painting.

Pigment Minerals: Commonly used pigment minerals include geru and ochre.

The varied color scheme was influenced by a variety of minerals.

The main themes are scenes of group hunting, grazing, riding, and other events.

Themes reflect the lifestyle and surroundings of ancient communities.

Color and Size Evolution: Works of art demonstrate how colors and sizes have changed over time.

Changes or improvements in artistic methods are reflected in evolution.

Site examples include Madhya Pradesh's Bhimbetka Caves.

The caves of Jogimara in Chhattisgarh.

Madhya Pradesh's Narsingarh Caves.

Mural and Cave Paintings in India⁷

India's mural paintings, which date from the 10th century BC to the 10th century AD, are enormous works of art that adorn solid structures and walls. Found mostly in rock-cut chambers and natural caverns, these enormous works are too big for traditional canvases, which adds to their special significance.

Major Themes: These murals tell religious and cultural stories visually, with Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism acting as the main thematic elements.

Locations for Mural Painting Examples

In Maharashtra, the Ajanta Caves

Meaning: Made of volcanic rocks, it was sculpted in the fourth century AD.

Themes include the life of the Buddha, the Jataka stories, human ideals, the social fabric, and the complex patterns of the flora and wildlife.

Medium: Mineral and vegetable coloring.

5 <https://indiantraditionandculture.in/> Indian Art and Crafts, Indians Paintings and Sculpture by Anchit Jain, July 7, 2024.

6 <https://artincontext.org/indian-art> Indian Art – Discover the History and Influence of Ancient Indian Art, By Isabela Meyer, Posted on June 19, 2022 Updated November 24, 2023

7 <https://www.studyiq.com/> Evolution of Paintings in India, Types, Features, Examples, Published On December 1st, 2023.

The Maharashtra caves of Ellora

From the seventh century AD.

Themes: Buddhist, Jainist, and Hindu representations.

Famous Location: Kailasa temple featuring a variety of religious artworks.

The Madhya Pradesh Bagh Caves

An extension in decoration and design that relates to Ajanta School.

Features include precise outlines, a terrestrial appearance, and well-modeled people.

A notable piece of art is Rang Mahal, which depicts Buddhist and Jataka stories in Cave No. 4.

The paintings in Tamil Nadu's Armamalai Cave

The eighth century saw the transformation of natural caves into a Jain temple.

The subject is colorful murals that depict Jainism and Astathik Palakas.

Paintings at Sittanavasal Cave (Arivar Koil), Tamil Nadu

Resemblance to Bagh and Ajanta: Notable parallels in artistic style.

Coverage: pillars, walls, and ceiling murals.

Subject: The Jain Samavasarana theme is the basis.

The Odisha rock shelter of Ravan Chhaya

An umbrella that is partially open in old frescoes is a distinctive feature.

Historically, it was probably used as a royal hunting lodge.

Amazing An illustration of a royal procession from the 7th century.

The paintings of Lepakshi, Andhra Pradesh

Timeline: murals in Veerabhadra temple from the 16th century.

Time period: The Vijayanagara period is when it was created.

Themes: Focused on the Mahabharata, Ramayana, and the incarnations of Vishnu.

The paintings at Jogimara Cave in Chhattisgarh

Historical period: around 1000–300 BC.

Characteristics: Inscriptions and paintings in Brahmi script.

Content: A vivid red outline is used to represent dancing couples, fish, and elephants.

With their representations of many topics, eras, and regional influences, these mural paintings are an essential component of India's creative legacy. From historical processions to religious stories, every location provides a different window into the nation's diverse cultural fabric.

Miniature Paintings in India⁸

India has a rich artistic legacy that includes miniature paintings, which are distinguished by their small size and fine detailing. Mostly created after the eleventh century AD, these paintings have specific characteristics and have changed significantly depending on the location.

Common Characteristics

- Human forms are portrayed from the side, with characteristic traits like big eyes, slim waists, and sharp noses;
- Each character uses a variety of colours and bases;
- Each character is small yet has intricate details.

⁸ <https://artincontext.org/indian-art> Indian Art – Discover the History and Influence of Ancient Indian Art, By Isabela Meyer, Posted on June 19, 2022 Updated November 24, 2023

- Often painted on paper, garments, palm fronds, and other materials.

School/Region	Period	Features/Significance
Pala School of Art	750-1150 AD	used in writings on vellum or palm leaf paper. Rare group paintings and lonely, lonesome people are common. influenced by Buddhism's Vajrayana school.
Apabhramsa School of Art	11th to 15th century	The Vaishnava School later adopted the Jain religion as a key motif. Red, yellow, and ochre are the primary colours with symbolic meaning.
Deccan Style of Painting	12th – 16th AD	Human figures are outlined in black and the colours are applied flat. faces with a detached appearance when viewed from a three-quarter angle. landscapes featuring non-naturalistic patterns, stylised trees, and rocks.
Delhi Sultanate	13th – 16th AD	fusion of traditional Indian components with Persian themes. preference for manuscripts with illustrations, such as the Nimatnama. blend of Persian and native styles.
Mughal Era	16th – 19th AD	distinctive style that exalts gods and portrays the life of monarchs. Pay attention to historical occurrences, hunting scenes, and court-related issues. blending of Indian and Persian artistic traditions.

Rajasthani Schools	17th – 19th AD	equivalent to the Rajput School of Painting. inspired by Mughal court practices. Mughal atelier painters in Kishangarh, Jodhpur, or Bikaner.
Pahari School	17th – 19th AD	appeared in Mughal-ruled sub-Himalayan areas. The term "Pahari Paintings" refers to a variety of schools.
South India	16th – 19th AD	Early mediaeval South India has a long-standing tradition of miniature painting. unique use of gold that sets it apart from schools in North India.

The development of miniature paintings in India demonstrates the diversity and depth of this complex art form by reflecting a range of regional influences, religious themes, and cultural subtleties.

Folk Paintings in India⁹

Folk paintings, which are artistic works produced by local painters, are often inspired by epics such as the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavata Purana. Along with depicting scenes from everyday village life, these vibrant paintings also show the unique traditions, rituals, and pastimes of the many villages. The addition of animals and birds, which are vital to rural areas, creates a fascinating tapestry of rural life. Furthermore, when natural objects like the sun, moon, plants, and trees are transformed into creative expressions, folk artists' visual storytelling reveals a close connection with nature¹⁰.

Folk Painting	Region	Features/Significance
Madhubani Paintings	Bihar	Hindu mythological motifs such as Krishna, Rama, Durga, Lakshmi, and Shiva serve as inspiration for this common theme. traditionally painted on walls using vegetable colours and rice paste on a foundation of mud and cow dung.

⁹ <https://www.drishtias.com/> indian-painting-part-i, 08 Nov 2023.

¹⁰ <https://artincontext.org/indian-art> Indian Art – Discover the History and Influence of Ancient Indian Art, By Isabela Meyer, Posted on June 19, 2022 Updated November 24, 2023

Pattachitra	Odisha	Cotton is used to treat the base, and natural colours are used. Colours are added to red or yellow brush-drawn outline drawings. founded on the Vaishnava and Jagannath faiths.
Patua Art	Bengal	Patuas, who are painted on pats or scrolls, travel to communities and sing stories in exchange for food or cash. Traditionally, religious stories are depicted on fabric.
Kalighat Painting	West Bengal	Originally depicting religious themes, it later changed to show shifting social views. speaks directly to consumers and conveys subaltern thoughts.
Paitkar Painting	Jharkhand	one of the most ancient painting schools. discusses topics like life after death and illustrates social and religious norms.
Kalamkari Paintings	Andhra Pradesh	The flow of colour is controlled with a bamboo pen with sharp tips. Cotton is the fabric, and vegetable dyes are used to create the colours. Hindu mythology-inspired freehand illustrations.
Warli Painting	Gujarat-Maharashtra	like the Bhimbetka mural murals from prehistory. Ritualistic images of festivals, dances, animals, trees, hunting, fishing, and farming.
Thangka Painting	Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh	originally used in Buddhism as a kind of devotion. made on cotton canvas using natural vegetable or mineral colours.

Manjusha Painting	Bihar	Angika art is another name for it. completed on paper and jute containers. These artworks frequently feature snake designs.
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Modern Paintings in India¹¹

1857 is frequently cited as the birth year of modern Indian art, and pieces from this pivotal era are preserved at the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi. Although the Impressionist movement marks the start of modernity in the West, the Bengal School of Painting is sometimes cited as the starting point for talks about contemporary Indian art.

In India, modern or contemporary art is distinguished by breaking with tradition, embracing an eclectic approach with international artistic expressions, stressing technique as both ubiquitous and crucial, and showcasing the artist as a singular entity.

Evolution of Modern Paintings in India¹²

Indian painting, which was a continuation of miniature painting, began to decrease around the end of the 19th century. In the midst of regional folk arts and minor styles like the "Bazar" and "Company," Raja Ravi Varma's naturalistic influence became apparent.

The Bengal School was a new painting movement led by Abanindranath Tagore that combined romanticism and nostalgia. For more than thirty years, this school—also known as the Renaissance or Revivalist School—was in power.

With India's independence following World War II, new political and cultural forces emerged. As they struggled with previously unheard-of possibilities, artists tended towards modernisation and embraced Western aesthetic concepts like expressionism and impressionism.

There was a change in Indian painting in the modern era as form became more important than content. The public and artists were estranged as a result of the emergence of individualism.

Bengal School of Art

The demise of traditional Indian painting during the British Raj led to the emergence of the Bengal School of Art in the early 20th century. Company paintings were preferred by British collectors because they streamlined Indian subjects into exotic representations that complemented European style. The Bengal School sought to buck this trend by drawing on Indian customs. Inspired by Mughal, Rajasthani, and Pahari styles, it showcased sophisticated depictions of Indian daily life and customs.

Paintings in India¹³

With roots in prehistoric cave art, Indian paintings have a long and illustrious history. Indian painting's history depicts cultural change, from the Indus Valley Civilization's symbolic designs to the Gupta Period's focus on religious subjects. Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain stories are portrayed in mural paintings

11 <https://www.studyiq.com/> Evolution of Paintings in India, Types, Features, Examples, Published On December 1st, 2023.

12 <https://vajiramandravi.com/> Indian Paintings, History, Names, Types, Famous Paintings List, 28-08-2024

13 <https://indiantraditionandculture.in/> Indian Art and Crafts, Indians Paintings and Sculpture by Anchit Jain, July 7, 2024.

that may be found in places like Ajanta and Ellora. Since the 11th century, miniature paintings have developed, showcasing a variety of regional styles. While modern Indian art, typified by the Bengal School, represents a break from conventional rules, folk paintings are inspired by epics and rural life. Indian paintings continue to have a strong connection to identity, tradition, and spirituality despite a wide range of influences.

PRE-HISTORIC PAINTINGS

It is possible to conceptualise the development of Indian history as taking place in discrete phases. Usually, the monuments, texts, and inscriptions created during a time period can teach us about that era. Paintings are also included in the mix. We do not, however, have written records for a portion of Indian history. The Prehistoric Period is the name given to this period of time. In this way, wall murals became essential for explaining daily life in antiquity. The cave walls served as a canvas for the ancient artisans. We would like to draw attention to the Mesolithic, Chalcolithic, and Upper Palaeolithic periods of prehistory. It is estimated that the Upper Palaeolithic paintings date from between 40,000 and 10,000 years ago. The majority of them featured huge beasts like elephants and bison that were associated with forests. The people were simple stick figures¹⁴.

Throughout the Mesolithic Era, hunting was a popular activity. The subjects portrayed in these paintings are representative of the times in which they were created. Hunting taught us more about the animals and instruments necessary for that activity than any other activity because it was a necessity for survival. During the Chalcolithic period, the artworks of the Copper Age are shown. Agricultural output also rose during this period. Once more, there are motifs that show how individuals connect. It is crucial to keep in mind that throughout the time period we are talking about, paintings were the main form of communication, and historians rely solely on them to reconstruct the everyday lives of the people in that era. The fact that the paints and emulsions used to produce these artworks differ from those used now must also be noted. These were probably made from locally accessible minerals like limestone, chalcedony, haematite, and animal fat or tree pieces¹⁵.

Additionally, there were no elegant, contemporary brushes. But these pieces of art have endured over centuries. For their offspring, ancestors have offered a glimpse into their lives. These paintings can be found in a few caves in Madhya Pradesh. Bhimbetka Shelters is one example of a cave of this type. According to UNESCO, it is a World Heritage Site. The caves were discovered by V.S. Wakankar in 1957–1958. Here are some artworks that delve into the subjects covered above. The paint and the oxide on the cave walls are said to have reacted chemically, preserving the murals for thousands of years. Paintings may have also been found in new caves, indicating that they were warning signs. The Garhwal-Kumaon Range contains caves with prehistoric murals that portray human group dances and have galleries called Lakhudiyar and Dalband. The Mahadeva Hills in Madhya Pradesh's Panchmarhi Area have cave paintings that show hunting scenes and other everyday activities (also known as the Bazar Caves and the Mahadeva Caves). Even in southern India, there are prehistoric caves that portray animals, such as Kurnool, Hasan Parti, Kazipet, etc¹⁶.

14 <https://thelostlander.com/> THE HERITAGE OF PAINTINGS- A LIST FROM ALL INDIAN STATES, MAY 4 2020.

15 <https://www.studyiq.com/> Evolution of Paintings in India, Types, Features, Examples, Published On December 1st, 2023.

16 <https://vajiramandravi.com/> Indian Paintings, History, Names, Types, Famous Paintings List, 28-08-2024

CAVE PAINTINGS¹⁷

This part will go into detail on paintings from the later prehistoric era, when we started to have other sources besides paintings to account for historical events, even if the majority of ancient art is found in caves. First on the list are the paintings found in the Ajanta and Ellora Caves. Additionally, UNESCO has designated these caves as a World Heritage Site. The caves are located in the Aurangabad area of Maharashtra. Different groups of individuals excavated the Ajanta Caves between the second century B.C. and the sixth century A.D. The main themes of the wall paintings at the Ajanta Caves are the Buddha, his teachings, and the stories of the Jataka. Almost thirty caverns were occupied by Buddhist monks and their disciples (monastery), with five of them serving as chaityagrihas (prayer halls) and the remaining caves as viharas. The Ajanta Caves' frescoes got their name because they were painted directly onto the cave walls' damp plaster. These paintings adorn the walls and ceilings of the Ajanta Caves. The 500 CE paintings at the Ajanta caves make advantage of an optical phenomenon known as "outward projections." The lines thus have superb shape and rhythm. The outer line's contouring and the colour scheme as a whole combine to create the illusion of depth. Next on the schedule are the Ellora Caves. The caves housed 34 monasteries and temples between 600 and 1000 A.D. Within the caves are prominent representations of Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain beliefs. As previously stated, the caves were excavated in three separate phases, each of which corresponded to a different faith. The caves where Buddhism was practiced have pictures of Buddha's life on their walls. Vajrayana Buddhist deities such as Tara, Mahamayuri, Akshobhya, Avalokiteshwara, Maitrya, and Amitabha are depicted in statues within the twelve caves. Hindu paintings usually feature plants, nature, gods, and goddesses, all of which are associated with Hindu mythology. With clouds in the background, the most famous painting shows Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi. Nearby are numerous murals dedicated to the Deities Shiva and Vishnu, as well as the single-rock carved Kailash Temple. Next are the Jain Caves, which have ceilings depicting Jinas and Yaksha-Yaksis, ornamental walls, and mural paintings. Let's now travel to Sittanavasal Caves in Tamil Nadu. Stated differently, the caves have existed since the second century. The caves with their ducks, fish, dancing figures, and 9th and 10th century inscriptions are thought to have been inhabited by Jain priests from the eastern part of the nation. They are thought to have been made with vegetable dyes. The borders that go along the walls and the roof were expertly made. The Saspol Caves in India's far north, in the Leh District, combine Tibetan and Buddhist art. These artworks, which were produced between the 14th and 15th centuries, are well-known for their use of vibrant colours. Numerous deities are portrayed, such as the guardian deity Samvara and the enlightened healer Hevajra. There are numerous caves in India that are well-known for the beautiful artwork they hold, including the Elephanta Caves in Maharashtra, the Jogimara Caves in Chhattisgarh, the Badami Caves in Karnataka, and others.

TEMPLE PAINTINGS¹⁸

In order to create a mystical environment, Indian temples frequently have images of nature, gods, and goddesses painted or carved into the ceiling, walls, and pillars. There are historical examples of distinctive temple art, especially in South Indian temples. The Pallava monarchs of Tamil Nadu in the 7th century portrayed Siva at the temples of Panamalai and Kailashanatar in Kancheepuram. In the ninth century, the spectacular Kailashnath temple at Ellora was chiselled out of a mountain. This temple used

17 <https://artincontext.org/indian-art> Indian Art – Discover the History and Influence of Ancient Indian Art, By Isabela Meyer, Posted on June 19, 2022 Updated November 24, 2023

18 <https://thelostlander.com/> THE HERITAGE OF PAINTINGS- A LIST FROM ALL INDIAN STATES, MAY 4 2020.

to have murals painted on its ceiling and walls. The pieces that have survived are examples of exquisite and superior art. The Chola Fresco Paintings were found in a corridor of the Brihadisvara Temple in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. These enormous paintings were made really rapidly using natural organic dyes. If we are searching for artworks with a Siva topic, we have discovered some of the best. The temple walls of Pundarikapuram, Ettumanoor, and Aymanam are home to well-preserved specimens of Kerala mural painting. The Uttar Pradesh region of Lalitpur is home to kacheris, or Hindu temples, dedicated to the gods Siva and Vishnu. The ceiling of the Choti Kacheri is covered in the remains of some truly amazing 13th-century paintings. These paintings are extremely important since they are the oldest depictions of the northern plains of India. 15th-century murals adorn the ceiling of the Virupaksha Temple in Hampi. The Vijaynagar Empire's history is told, and images of gods and wise rulers are included. Within the walls of Andhra Pradesh's Lepakshi Temple are some of the best mural paintings in the world. Beautiful illustrations of Vijaynagar art.

MUGHAL PAINTINGS¹⁹

Mughal-era paintings incorporate aspects of Islamic, Persian, and Indian art. Battles, court scenes, mythical stories, hunting scenes, nature, and portraiture were common themes in Indian Mughal art. Two Persian artists, Mir Sayyid 'Ali and Khwaja 'Abd al-samad, visited India during the reign of Emperor Humayun and established themselves as the main figures of the Mughal Art movement. Since Akbar had studied painting under Abd as-Samad, historians assume that he valued art. A compilation of big miniature paintings was made during Akbar's reign; called "Dastn-e Amr amzeh," it was an odd size at 22 by 28 inches and included about 1400 drawings. Scenes from mythical stories like the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Persian epics are portrayed in a large number of artworks from this era. During that time, "Tutinama Painting: Tales of a Parrot" was another significant piece. Because Jahangir valued the arts, artists like Abu al-Hasan, dubbed the "Wonder of the Age," Bishands, renowned for his portraiture paintings, and Ustad Mansur, a master of animal studies, prospered during his rule. The official biography of Emperor Jahangir, Jahangir-Nama, portrays many of the significant events in Jahangir's life during this period. In "Tusukh-i-Jahangiri," Jahangir boasts, "For me, my love for painting and practice has reached a stage," showcasing his proficiency in painting. It has previously brought dead artists. If each person in a painting is the creation of a distinct master, we can also determine who painted whose face in a picture that has several portraits. By examining the eye and eyebrow, we can determine the artist of a face, even if they were not initially present (Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri). During Jahangir's reign, groups of five or six artists, each at the pinnacle of their profession, would work together on a single painting. Furthermore, European masterpieces entered the era as gifts thanks to Jahangir's support of the arts.

Paintings Inspired by Indian Regions²⁰

India's rich artistic heritage is reflected in the historical paintings found throughout its various areas. The ship's flavour has evolved along our journey across the kingdoms. For instance, numerous internationally renowned Madhubani paintings can be found in the Bihar city of Mithila. Traditionally, women decorated homes and commemorated life events such as festivals, weddings, and the birth of a child by painting on plastered mud walls. In the picture, the sun, moon, holy herbs, and other natural

19 <https://www.studyiq.com/> Evolution of Paintings in India, Types, Features, Examples, Published On December 1st, 2023.

20 <https://indiantraditionandculture.in/> Indian Art and Crafts, Indians Paintings and Sculpture by Anchit Jain, July 7, 2024.

occurrences are depicted as gods. Hand-painted tiny paintings that were relatively modest and had vibrant colours were known as miniature paintings. Buddhist-themed palm leaf displays were common throughout the seventh-century AD Bengal Palas period, when the earliest specimens may be seen. The Jaina school of miniature painting gained popularity in the 11th century and produced tiny representations of religious literature including the Kalpa Sutra and the Kalkacharya Katha. Silver, genuine gold, and valuable stones were also used in the paintings. Subschools of the Rajasthan School of Miniature Paintings, including Mewar, Marwar, Kangra, and others, portrayed unique facets of Rajputana culture. Stories from two of the most well-known Hindu epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, have impacted a number of artistic creations. Then came the Orissa School's miniature paintings, which frequently depicted Hindu mythological tales like "Krishna Leela" and "Gita Govind." The Pahari School miniature paintings, which had their beginnings in the northern Indian highlands, depicted the scenic and ethereal grandeur of the Himalayas. Additional subjects covered were those influenced by the Rajasthani and Mughal Schools of Miniature Painting.

CONCLUSION:

Perhaps the origins of art might be found in the "Pre-Historic Era," when the word "History" was not even created. These paintings are a vital component of the nation's cultural legacy and are useful for researching the lives of people from each historical era. The walls and ceilings of well-known tourist destinations of historical significance are decorated with these paintings. But because of the inventive methods used by historical artists, they have also genuinely outlasted the test of time. When we looked at different kinds of paintings, we also noticed that while they differ in time and space, which distinguishes one type from another, there are themes that connect them and weave them together in a thread of space and time. Throughout history, religious themes and representations of plants and animals have been prevalent. It would be easy to say, then, that artworks reflect the past and recount the lives and beliefs of our ancestors.

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