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NATURE STUDY

Since time immemorial nature and man have been seen closely linked. Nature has always inspired man to survive. Besides, it has made people to realize its beauty. Man is the only living being who has high and developed sense of appreciation of beauty. He has, therefore, taken up nature after deeper study to immortalize it. Sculpture and Painting have been effectively used to immortalise nature's beauty. Its mountains, rivers, oceans, flora and fauna in different shapes and colours often attract man.

Life exists in all forms of nature. Nature has movement and expresses diverse feelings and emotions through colours, shapes and texture of nature. A beautiful picture emerges if all such components are kept in mind.

Following factors are essential while depicting nature:

(i) Perspective (ii) Balance, (iii) Composition (iv) Harmony, and (v) Colours.

They are used proportionately in all arts. This is possible only if practised regularly.



OBJECTIVES

After studying and practicing this lesson, the learner will be able to:

- draw pictures of various natural objects;
- compose various natural things in picture form;
- use water colours harmoniously in the composition; and
- draw pictures keeping the balance in mind.

**Notes**

Perspective

We should take special care of perspective while doing nature study. It is important to maintain balance of vanishing point under the rules of perspective. It is possible only if we paint the objects in proportionate size. It should look big if it is closer and similarly smaller if it is distant. The detail of the object should be shown in the painting. Tone should be marked by showing the distant object smaller and painted in faint colours. For example, the tree which is closer is shown thicker and big one. Similarly, the path to the hut and its roof is proportional to other close objects. In this picture the portion in front of roof has been painted proportionately bigger to portion at a distance. The hillocks at the rear look small. In brief in nature study all efforts should be made to incorporate perspective, balance, composition and harmony. Any thing missing would affect adversely.

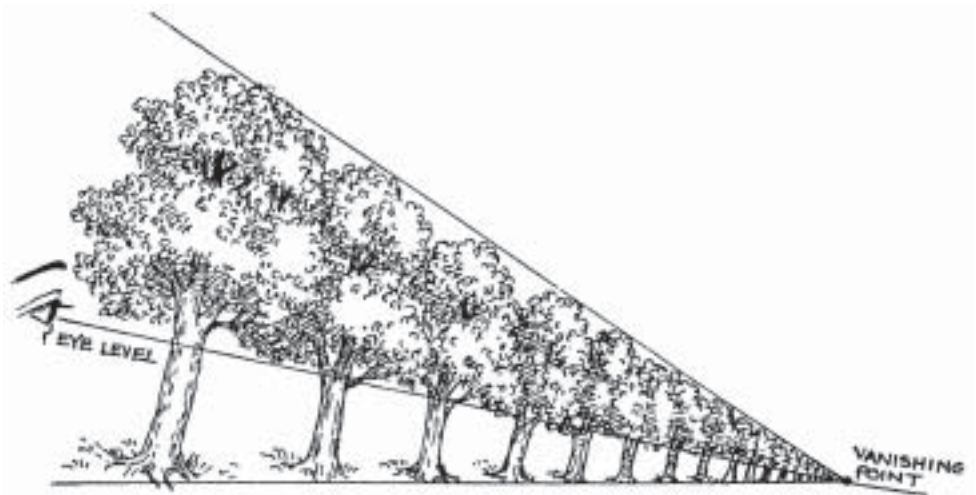


Fig. 1

Balance

Balance plays a vital role in drawing a picture. While painting, the space on the paper should be arranged in such a manner that every aspect of the painting is

balanced. In case, in a painting one side of the paper has thick forest and the other side is occupied by herbs and shrubs or a bungalow, it will look absurd and it will not be a balanced painting. (Fig. 2 and 3) Space on the paper should be balanced.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Composition

One should take care of perspective, balance and harmony to compose a picture of nature. The elements and objects in the painting should be composed beautifully. Composition is significant in nature study. See figure no. 4 which is a faulty composition but Fig. no. 5 is well composed and also balanced.



Notes



Notes



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Harmony

The objects and forms in a composition should be arranged in such a way that can establish a relationship which will bring the harmony in the painting. The colours play an important part to achieve harmony. Perfect and balanced use of colours can bring the relationship between rhythm and harmony. See fig. no. 6.



Fig. 6

Colour

It is important to be cautious while using water colours. The student should at the outset, use light colours followed by medium, dark and later darkest. To let the near objects look nearer, it is important to use bright colours such as red, yellow, orange. For distant objects cool colours such as blue, violet and brown etc., should be used. Note the use of colours in different steps to paint flowers and landscape in Fig. no. 7 and 8.

Step-1



Step-2



Fig. no. 7



Notes



Notes

Step-3



Step-4



Fig. no. 7

Step-1



Step-2



Fig. no. 8

Step-3



Step-4



Fig. no. 8

Summary

Sketches are significant while making nature study. It needs right perspective and proportion to be a good painting. Perspective facilitates in bringing depth in the space in the picture. As per the rules of the perspective, the objects in the foreground will look bigger than the objects in the background. The parallel lines appear to meet at a point as they move to the horizon. Dark and light lines can also be used to show the nearness and distance and also distance of the objects. It is important to mind composition, balance and harmony while painting nature.

Try to capture the real colours of Nature in your painting. Some minor changes can be made to enhance the beauty. This permits slight variation in brightness by reducing or increasing the brightness.

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. Draw a balanced sketch of a tree or a plant.
2. Draw a balanced picture of nature with a hut and a tree. Use water colour.
3. Draw a sketch of fruit, flower and a flower vase. Use water colour on it.



Notes



Notes

4. First draw separate sketch of a mountain, coconut trees, stone and sea at separate places. Later draw two different compositions based on these sketches. Fill in the pictures with poster colours.
5. Go to any nearby garden and draw sketches of different flowers.
6. Based on perspective, paint the petals of some flowers using water colours to colour the leaves.



MALLARD AT THE WATER'S EDGE

By Archibald Thor Burn

(Water Colour)



DRAWING

By Gopal Ghose

(Water Colour + Brush)