

Lesson No.	Title of Lesson	Module No.
3	History and Appreciation of Art from 13th Century AD to 18th Century AD.	1

Brief Introduction

- This period of Indian art was enriched with the treasure of illustrated manuscripts belonging to different religious sects like Hindus, Jains and Buddhists.
- The main centres of the illustrated manuscripts (Punthis) were in Bengal, Gujarat and Bihar.
- **Pala** dynasty patronised the development of manuscripts in Bengal and Bihar with a distinct style known as **Pala style**.
- Jain religious manuscripts were written and illustrated in Gujarat on palm leaf in beautiful calligraphic art.
- Temple architecture was also developed during this period. The marble temple complex of Dilwara at Mount Abu and terracotta temples of Bengal and Odisha are exemplary.
- Rajput paintings and Mughal paintings flourished from the 16th century AD to 19th century A.D. While the Rajput paintings were a combination of folk paintings and Ajanta paintings, the Mughal paintings were a combination of Persian and Rajput paintings.

3.1

SRINGAR

Particulars

Title : *Sringar*

Artist : *Unknown*

Medium : *Tempera*

Style : *Guler School*

Period : *18th century AD*



Appreciation of the Painting

- A bride is being adorned for her wedding.
- A maid is preparing sandal paste in the foreground and another woman is tying an anklet on the foot of the bride.
- There are two standing figures. One is holding a mirror and the other is making a garland of flowers.
- A lady is combing the bride's hair with an assistant under supervision of an elderly lady.
- **Sringar** is a typical Rajput painting.

Develop your understanding about Guler Painting

- **Guler**, a small state in Kangra Valley, was one of the important centres of Pahari School of Paintings flourished between 1450 C.A.D to 1780 C.A.D.
- **Guler miniature** was influenced by folk art and Mughal miniature style.
- **Guler paintings** are characterised by romanticism of the myth of **Krishna** and **Radha** as a symbol of divine love.
- Stories of **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata** are also used as the themes of **Guler paintings** with royal portraits and court scenes.
- The exquisite faces, graceful attitudes and soft harmony of colours are characteristics of **Guler painting**.

Evaluate Yourself

- 3.1.1 Identify the activity being done by the woman in the foreground of the painting Sringar.
- 3.1.2 Specify the main characteristics of **Guler Painting**.

Answer

- 3.1.1 A maid is preparing sandal paste.
- 3.1.2 Guler paintings are characterised by romanticism of the myth of Krishna and Radha as a symbol of divine love.

3.2

KALPASUTRA

Particulars

Title : *Kalpasutra*

Artist : *Unknown*

Medium : *Tempera on Palm Leaf*

Style : *Jain Manuscript Painting*

Period : *15th Century AD*



Appreciation of the Painting

- The given painting is from **Kalpasutra**, a Jain book of rituals.
- In composition of this painting, space is divided into squares and rectangles, and the figures of men, women and animals are set against a red background.
- Each segment narrates a different sequence of the story of “**Kalpasutra**”.
- The style is full of folk elements like flatness of the form, stereotyped expression and lack of perspective.
- The fluent lines for contour and use of decorative dots enhance the beauty of this painting.

Develop your understanding about Jain Miniature Painting

- Jain Miniature Painting developed in India from 7th century AD and reached its maturity between 10th century AD to 15th century AD.
 - Jain scriptures like **Kalkacharya Katha** and **Kalpasutra** are illustrated with images of **Tirthankaras** like **Parsvanath**, **Neminath**, **Rishabhath** & others.
 - The important centres of these paintings were Punjab, Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat and Rajasthan.
 - Human figures show some special characteristics in these paintings.
 - These manuscripts are mainly made of palm leaf, and the colours, predominantly red and yellow, are made from locally available pigments.
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Evaluate Yourself

- 3.2.1 How is the space divided in the composition of the painting **Kalpasutra**? Specify.
- 3.2.2 Whose images have been illustrated in Jain scriptures? Find out .
- 3.2.3 Specify the period of the development of Jain Miniature Painting in the country.

Answer

- 3.2.1 The space is divided into squares and rectangles.
- 3.2.2 The images of **Tirthankaras** like **Parsvanath, Neminath, Rishabhath** etc.
- 3.2.3 7th century to 15th century A.D.

3.3**BISHNUPUR TERRACOTTAS –
RASLILA****Particulars**

Title : *Bishnupur Terracottas-Raslila*

Artist : *Unknown*

Medium : *Terracotta Tiles*

Site : *Panchmura Temple,
Bishnupur, W. Bengal*

Period : *Around 17th Century AD*

Appreciation of the terracotta art

- Raslila is a celebration of divine love of Radha & Krishna with their friends *Gopis* and *Gopiyans*.
- This beautiful panel is composed of three concentric circles within a square space, and the middle circle is occupied by the figures of Radha-Krishna along with a Gopi.
- In the painting the artist has taken keen interest to depict the contemporary social life. The four corners of the square are decorated with human figures, animal figures and birds.

Develop your understanding about terracotta art

- Bishnupur is a small town in west Bengal.
- There are many temples which are decorated with terracotta tiles.
- Terracotta art reflects various cultural and religious currents of 18th and 19th century AD.
- Most of the temples are dedicated either to **Shiva** or **Vishnu**.
- Figures of **Shiva-Durga, Radha-Krishna** and characters from **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata** are seen in these terracotta tiles.
- The temple architecture is based on the design of Bengali thatched hut type in single or double storeys.

Evaluate Yourself

- 3.3.1 Determine the number of circles in the panel of **Raslila**.
- 3.3.2 How are the four corners of the square are decorated in the panel of **Raslila**?
- 3.3.3 Determine the figures and the characters shown in the theme of Bishnupur terracotta tiles.

Answer

- 3.3.1 Three concentric circles.
- 3.3.2 Four corners are decorated with human figures, animal figures & birds.
- 3.3.3 **Shiva-Durga, Radha-Krishna** and characters from **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata**.

Do You Know?

- The art scene in India from 13th century AD to 18th century AD shows the lack of patrons to patronise the art. However, this period was enriched with treasures of illustrated manuscripts belonging to different religious sects like Hindu, Jains and Buddhists.
 - The temple architecture was also developed in some parts of India during this period. The beautiful marble temple complex of **Dilwara** at **Mount Abu** and terracotta temples of Bengal and Odisha are exemplary.
 - Guler miniature went through different stages of development under the influence of Folk art to Mughal miniature style. In spite of the reduced size, the aesthetic and technical quality of the miniature paintings are of very high standard.
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