

Lesson No.	Title of Lesson	Module No.
9	Contemporary Indian Art	3

### Brief Introduction

- Contemporary art began with the British rule of India, after the decline of Mughal empire and the end of classical and medieval art of India.
- German expressionism, Cubism, Fauvism, Dadaism and Surrealism** influenced the Indian painters such as **Raja Ravi Varma, Abanindranath Tagore, Amrita Shergil, Rabindranath Tagore** and **Jamini Roy**.
- A combination of Western technique and Indian spiritualism became the essence of Indian art.
- While some artists were experimenting with western style, others like **Benode Behari Mukherjee, Ramkinkar Vajj** showed indination towards Japanese art and folk art.

### 9.1

#### WHIRLPOOL

##### Particulars

Title : Whirlpool

Artist : Krishna Reddy

Medium : Intaglio on paper

Period : 1962

Size : 37.5cms X  
49.5 cms



### Appreciation of the Painting

- It is one of the masterpieces of **Krishna Reddy**.
- It has been done in **Intaglio** process.
- In whirlpool painting, the artist has created new forms from known objects and has taken them into abstraction.
- The painting shows that everything is lost in the cosmic whirlpool.

### Develop your understanding about the Painting

- He is one of the most famous print makers.
- He was a student of **Kala Bhavan, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan**.
- His early experience of making sculptures helped him to understand the relief type intaglio effects in the prints, which is the main beauty of his work.

### Evaluate Yourself

- 9.1.1 Which print making technique has been used by **Krishna Reddy** in whirlpool?
- 9.1.2 Specify the previous experience that helped **Krishna Reddy** to understand the relief type intaglio effect in the prints.

**Answer**

9.1.1 Intaglio

9.1.2 Sculpture making

**9.2****MEDIAEVAL SAINTS****Particulars**

*Title : Mediaeval Saints*

*Artist : Benode Behari Mukherjee (1904-1980)*

*Period : 1947*

*Medium : Fresco Buono*

*Collection: Mural on the Wall of Hindi Bhawan, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan*

**Appreciation of the Painting**

- The **Mediaeval Saints** is one of the murals which is painted on the wall of Hindi Bhawan of Santiniketan.
- It has been done in fresco buono technique depicting the saints of different religions of India.
- The largeness of figures express their spiritual greatness, the smaller figures represent common people.

**Develop your understanding about the artist : Benode Behari Mukherjee**

- He was a student of **Nandlal Bose**, the famous Bengal School painter.
- He loved nature and its beauty.
- He learnt the art of landscaping from Japan.
- He used very simple and rational lines like the Japanese artists.
- He suffered from weak eye sight from childhood and became totally blind in the later part of his life.

**Evaluate Yourself**9.2.1 Identify the figures depicted in the **Mediaeval Saints**.9.2.2 Where did the artist **Benode Behari** learn the art of landscaping?**Answer**

9.2.1 From different religious sects

9.2.2 Japan

### 9.3

#### WORDS AND SYMBOLS

##### Particulars

Title : *Words and symbols*

Artist : *K.C.S Panikar*  
(1911-1977)

Medium : *Oil on Board*

Period : *1965*

Size : *43 cms × 124 cms*



#### Appreciation of the Painting

- It is a very famous painting from the series of **Words & Symbols** by **K.C.S Panikar**.
- In this painting the space is covered with calligraphy.
- Mathematical symbols, Arabic figures, Roman scripts and Malyalam scripts have been used to create a design.
- This painting looks like a horoscope with tantric symbolic diagrams.
- Colours play a nominal role in the painting.

#### Develop your understanding about the artist- K.C.S Panikar

- He is one of the most influential and pioneers in the development of contemporary art movement in South India.
- He was a student of **D.P. Roy Choudhary** of Bengal School in the Madras School of Art.
- His style went through many stages from realistic to geometric.
- He established the first artist village of India near **Chennai** called **Cholamandalam**.

#### Evaluate Yourself

- 9.3.1 Specify the symbols, figures, scripts used by **K.C.S Panikar** to create a design.
- 9.3.2 Identify the role played by colours in the painting of **K.C.S Panikar**.
- 9.3.3 Specify the name of the first artist village set up by **K.C.S Panikar**.

#### Answer

- 9.3.1 Mathematical Symbol, Arabic, Roman, Malayalam scripts.
- 9.3.2 Colours plays a nominal role in the painting.
- 9.3.3 **Cholamandalam**.

### 9.4

#### LANDSCAPE IN RED

##### Particulars

Title : *Landscape in Red*

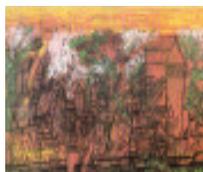
Artist : *F.N. Souza (1924-2002)*

Medium : *Oil*

Period : *1961*

Size : *78.7cms X 132.1 cms*

Collection: *Jahangir Nicholson Museum*



#### Appreciation of the painting

- It is a cityscape where the artist has tried to capture the city which looks like a concrete Jungle.
- The calligraphic use of lines has been nicely arranged with colours.
- Red is the predominant colour with few splashes of green.
- No rule of perspective has been followed in this painting.

**Develop your understanding about the a Painter**

- He was one of the young painters to form the Progressive Artists Group in 1947.
- He protested against all kinds of religious and social superstition through his paintings.
- He was also inspired by post-impressionist and German expressionist painters.
- He was greatly influenced by **Picasso** and **Matisse**.

**Evaluate Yourself**

- 9.4.1 Specify the look of the city captured by **F.N. Souza** in his painting “**Landscape in Red**”
- 9.4.2 Find the painters who greatly influenced **F.N. Souza**.

**Answer**

- 9.4.1 Concrete jungle
- 9.4.2 **Picasso** and **Matisse**.

**Do You Know**

- Contemporary art began with the British rule in India.
- **Raja Ravi Varma, Abanindranath Tagore, Amrita Shergil, Rabindranath Tagore, Jamini Roy** were the pioneers of Contemporary Indian art.
- These young artists were more exposed to western art movement.
- **German expressionism, cubism, Fauvism, Dadaism** and **Surrealism** also greatly influenced these Indian painters.
- These Indian artists continued their struggle to retain Indian identity with Indian spiritualism.