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## DISTINCT PAINTINGS OF INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

Indian workmanship of painting is the oldest and among they were most established on the earth. The History of Indian painting dates back to the prehistoric period. These paintings were found on rocks especially engraved. Each region in India is popular for a style of painting representing the custom and tradition of that region. The most popular Indian paintings are Madhubani paintings, Mural paintings, Miniature paintings, Phad paintings, Kalamkari paintings, Patachitra paintings, Tanjore paintings and Kalighat paintings. Paintings have evolved through different dynasties too Rajput paintings, Mysore paintings and Mughal paintings are some examples. Another important form of paintings is the Tribal paintings and it is the most vibrant form. Some of the famous paintings from Tribal people are Warli paintings, Gond paintings, Bhil paintings and Saura paintings.

**KEYWORDS:** Petroglyphs, Materials, Natural dyes.

### INTRODUCTION

The Indian Paintings reflects the perfect artistic expression with distinct composition. It flourished in India from time immemorial. The History of Indian painting dates back to the prehistoric period. These paintings were found on rocks especially engraved. They were called as Petroglyphs. The rock paintings mostly consisted of the drawings of animals. The rock art of India is around 30,000 years old and the best example was Bhimbetka Cave. Even during the Indus Valley Civilization paintings existed in different forms. During the Medieval period Mural paintings flourished particularly in the Royal Palaces and Mosques The paintings on cloth and Miniature paintings were also popular during this period. The modern period witnessed the semi westernized local styles. These were patronized by the British. Thus, India is a home for a variety of Paintings. The depictions of Ajanta, Bagh and Sittanavasal and their paintings in the temples, cherish naturalism. From the early civilization to this era the paintings are a stylish and aesthetic form of art. The different traditions that have existed within the nation have made a difference in enriching the paintings in India.

### POPULAR INDIAN PAINTINGS

Each region in India is popular for a style of painting representing the custom and tradition of that region. Some of the popular paintings of India are depicted below.

#### Madhubani Paintings

Madhubani paintings are also known as Mithila artwork with reference to its region of origin, Mithila located in the State of Bihar. The term Madhubani literally means “forests of honey”. This painting was brought to light by a British William G Archer in 1934, after an earthquake in Bihar. Gods and Goddesses form an important theme in Madhubani art. They also depict flora, fauna, essential festivals, weddings and village scenes. They still use traditional painting materials like cloth wrapped around a stick, and the colours are derived from natural sources. This type of art often features detailed backgrounds with colorful animal and plant motifs, geometric shapes, and tattoo-like markings. This art form is known to have originated in ancient times, during the preparations for Lord Rama and Goddess Sita's wedding, when King Janaka called all of his prominent artists and asked them to decorate the entire palace with mesmerizing paintings on the auspicious wedding.

#### Mural Paintings

The Mural paintings of India are paintings that were painted on the walls of caves and palaces. These artworks are symbols of the life, culture, and traditions of modern times. The caves of Ajanta, Elora, Elephanta and the caves of Bagh and the caves of Sittanavasal are a living memory of this great art that has prospered for centuries. Thus, the majority of this types of paintings are found in natural caves. Mural painting differs from all other forms of art. As they are too large to fit on paper, they were painted on walls. The major themes for mural paintings were drawn from Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. It is the only kind of art that is three dimensional. The colour pigments were created from natural resources such as terracotta, chalk, red ochre and yellow mixed with animal fat.



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### Miniature Paintings

These are colourful handmade paintings which are very small in size. Miniature paintings are usually done on books and albums, and on perishable material such as paper and cloth. The Palas of Bengal were the Pioneers of India to focus on miniature painting. The art reached its peak during the Mughal period. Miniature paintings are mainly associated with the state of Rajasthan. The painting specifies king on elephants, camel fights, bejewelled women, the costumes of Rajput princes and scenes from the Mughal court. The colors were taken from natural sources like vegetables, indigo, precious stones, gold and silver.

### Phad Paintings

Phad paintings are a type of cloth painting that use scrolls. Rajasthan is known for these colourful paintings, which are often done on cloth. These scroll paintings in folk styles depict the lives of local heroes and their stories. The smaller version of the phad is known as the phadake. Colors used for cloth and paper phad paintings were derived from vegetables. The historical themes are often depicted in these paintings. These paintings are created with bright and subtle colors.

### Kalamkari Paintings

Kalamkari is an ancient style of hand painting. This painting technique has its origin in Andhra Pradesh. The painter uses a pointed bamboo 'kalam' which means pen. The painting is done on fabrics. The cloth to be painted is washed in river water to remove the starch after which the fabric is dipped in a solution of myrobalam, milk, and water to make the black dye permanent. The main feature of the painting is that they use only natural dyes. The main subjects of this painting include flowers, paisleys, peacock and divine character form Ramayana and Mahabharata. Many women involve in this art work as it forms a major home-based occupation for many people.

### Patachitra Paintings

Patachitra's painting style is one of the oldest and most popular forms of painting in Odissa. The name Patachitra was evolved from Sanskrit word patta meaning canvas and chitra meaning picture. Patachitra paintings have intricate and vibrant outlines, colourful backgrounds, and decorative borders. This is also a fabric-based painting. This ancient art form is believed to have originated from the famous Jagannath Temple in Puri, in the state of Odissa. The colors are very bright and lively, and the themes typically focus on the main deity of the Jagannath temple, as well as scenes from the life of Lord Krishna, Ramayana and Mahabharata. Silver and gold paint are often used to add an extra touch of beauty to embellishments.

### Tanjore Paintings

The paintings of Tanjore are closely associated with the state of Tamil Nadu in Southern India. These paintings are covered with gold leaf, semi-precious stones, pearls, crystals and glass. These paintings feature large, round figures and faces that seem divine. There is a lot of relief work depicted in the paintings. Since the paintings are created on a specially created board of wood, they are also called "palagai padam" which means "wooden plank painting". The influence of Deccani, Vijayanagar, Maratha and European style can be witnessed in the Tanjore paintings.

### Kalighat Paintings

Kalighat paintings are often made on paper made from mill-made materials, with flowing brushwork and vibrant colors. They have its origin in the vicinity of the iconic Kalighat Kali Temple in Kolkata, West Bengal. These paintings illustrate Hindu gods and mythological characters, or incidents, themes, and characters from everyday life. The Kalighat artists mainly focused on painting goddess Kali. Many paintings of goddesses, such as Durga, Lakshmi, and Annapurna, were popular and found during the Durga Puja festival. The artists also depicted the themes like Sita-Rama, Radha-Krishna and the exploits of Hanuman. Another important theme in the painting is the story of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and his disciples.

## PAINTINGS OF DIFFERENT DYNASTIES

### Rajput Paintings

Rajput painting is a style of Indian painting that flourished during the 18th century in the royal courts of Rajasthan. Rajput paintings focus on themes related to the life of Lord Krishna, the great epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata, as well as landscapes and human beings. Rajput paintings have adorned the walls of palaces, interior chambers of forts of Rajasthan.

### Mysore Paintings

Mysore painting is an important form of classical South Indian painting originated around Mysore in Karnataka. This type of painting was encouraged and nurtured by the Mysore rulers. Most of these paintings focus on Hindu deities and scenes from Hindu



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mythology. It flourished during the 19th and 18th century. The Mysore painting reflects realism. The facial expression, elaborate jewellery and the pattern as the clothes shows the talent of the artists.

### Mughal Paintings

Mughal painting was primarily an art form used by the Mughal emperors. The intricate Mughal paintings actually started during the reign of Akbar, Jehangir and Shah Jahan. The subjects of these paintings were generally secular, consisting of illustrations to historical works and Persian and Indian literature, portraits of the emperor and his court, battles, hunting and genre scenes. The mughal painting evolved from the Persian School of miniature painting. It was influenced by Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.

### TRIBAL PAINTINGS

Tribal paintings were a visual art culture of the indigenous people. They were the most vibrant form of art among the tribal. Some of the popular Indian tribal paintings are elaborated below.

#### Warli Paintings

The Warli painting is characterised through abstraction of the herbal and natural world. They are made on material that is coated with cow dung or a natural red extract called gerue, a white paste made from rice is then used as paint, with small twigs serving as brushes. The central theme of these paintings includes scenes depicting hunting, fishing and cultivating, celebrations, trees and creatures. Human and creature bodies are denoted by two triangles joined at the tip; the upper triangle represents the trunk and the lower triangle the pelvis.

#### Gond Art

The Gond painting is a traditional tribe art found in the belts of river Godavari of Madhya Pradesh. Animal world and plants were the most honoured paintings and the gond tribe had close connection with nature. The painting also depicted the mythological stories, crucial happenings, cultural rituals, and natural aesthetics by using the appealing dash and dot patterns. The colours for this painting were extracted from plant sap, leaves, soils, mud, cow dung, etc

#### Bhil Paintings

The Bhils are the second largest tribal community in India, residing in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Traditionally, the art of the Bhil folk would adorn the clay walls of their village homes. Beautiful images were painted with neem sticks and other twigs, and natural dyes. Turmeric, flour, vegetables, leaves and oil were used to derive brilliant colours to make fascinating frescoes on floors and walls, in a language created by the Bhils, to convey their experiences.

### CONCLUSION

India's rich cultural diversity can be seen in the vibrant art and paintings that are produced in the country. Each region, culture, and tribe in the country has its own unique style of art that represents the beliefs and customs of the people there. These customs and beliefs are then passed on from one generation to the next, thus keeping these art forms alive to this day. Indian paintings typically depict the everyday life of people, animals, nature, and deities.

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