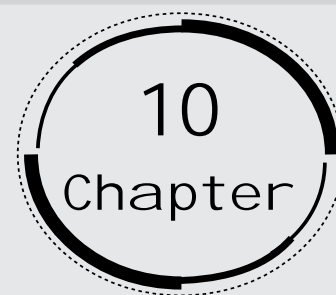


The Changing World of Visual Arts



1. Fill in the blanks:

- (a) The art form which observed carefully and tried to capture exactly what the eye saw is called _____.

Ans: The art form which observed carefully and tried to capture exactly what the eye saw is called portraiture.

- (b) The style of painting which showed Indian landscape as a quaint, unexplored land is called _____.

Ans: The style of painting which showed Indian landscape as a quaint, unexplored land is called picturesque.

- (c) Paintings which showed the social lives of Europeans in India are called _____.

Ans: Paintings which showed the social lives of Europeans in India are called Kalighat paintings.

- (d) Paintings which depicted scenes from British imperial history and their victories are called _____.

Ans: Paintings which depicted scenes from British imperial history and their victories are called history paintings.

2. Point out which of the following were brought in with British art:

- (a) oil painting
- (b) miniatures
- (c) life-size portrait painting
- (d) use of perspective
- (e) mural art

Ans: These art forms that were brought in with British art are: (a) Oil painting, (c) life-size portrait painting and (d) use of perspective.

3. Describe in your own words one painting from this chapter which suggests that the British were more powerful than Indians. How does the artist depict this?

Ans:



The picture that depicted the discovery of Tipu Sultan's body displays the British as being powerful and important than the Indians. The British General in this painting is depicted as though he is standing on a high pedestal, oozing tremendous confidence. In order to develop a firm foothold in Indian soil, the British Empire's might is visible in almost all the artworks. Tipu Sultan, on the other hand, is represented half-naked and motionless, resting in a dark corner. The picture appears to be implying that people who defy British rule would suffer the same fate.

4. Why did the scroll painters and potters come to Kalighat? Why did they begin to paint new themes?

Ans: Scroll painters and potters travelled to Kalighat hoping to find new fans and buyers for their work. A new movement emerged among the Kalighat artists after the 1840s. Kalighat painters responded to the world around them by creating paintings on social and political topics, living in a culture whose values, tastes, social conventions, and customs were rapidly changing.

5. Why can we think of Raja Ravi Varma's paintings as national?

Ans: Raja Ravi Varma was one of the first artists to attempt to create a modern and national style. He painted them from Indian mythology using the Western art

of oil painting and realistic life study. He recreated scene after scene from the Indian epics Ramayana and Mahabharata on canvas. His paintings are recognized sensational because of their depiction of Indian consciousness. This may have been one of the reasons why his paintings were so popular among Indian princes and art collectors, as well as the general public.

6. In what way did the British history paintings in India reflect the attitudes of imperial conquerors?

Ans: The sentiments of imperial conquerors were represented in the British history paintings in India. Various episodes of British imperial history were dramatized and recreated in the British history paintings. The British might, conquests, supremacy were honored in these artworks. The paintings of imperial history aimed and to build a popular remembrance of imperial victories. Victories had to be recalled and imprinted on people's minds, both in India and Britain. Only then British would be able to leave a lasting imprint on people's minds.

7. Why do you think some artists wanted to develop a national style of art?

Ans: Ravi Varma's paintings were rejected because they appeared to be mimicking western concepts. Some artists thought his work was inappropriate for expressing the country's ancient myths and legends. They believed that a true Indian painting style had to draw influence from non-Western art traditions and attempt to portray the East's spiritual essence. These artists abandoned the realistic technique of oil painting and looked to medieval Indian traditions of miniature painting and the ancient art of mural painting in the Ajanta caves for inspiration. Rabindranath Tagore was one of the earliest artists to advocate for the development of a national art form.

8. Why did some artists produce cheap popular prints? What influence would such prints have had on the minds of people who looked at them?

Ans: By the late nineteenth century, mechanical printing presses were set up in several parts of India, allowing prints to be produced in larger quantities than possible with manual labor. As a result, these prints could be offered for a low price on the market. Thus, they are affordable to the poor. Early twentieth-century popular prints propagated nationalist messages far and wide. People would have been inspired to fight British rule if they had seen such popular prints. As a result, the prints could serve as a platform for the transmission of nationalist ideas across the regions of India.