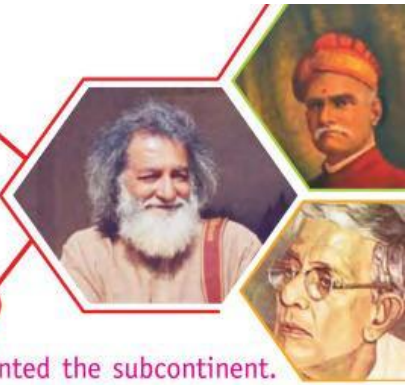


Chapter 43

Famous Indian Artists

Indian art dates thousands of years ago. Since about 3000 BC, artists have painted the subcontinent. Indian Art is known to be distinct with its soul enriched explosion of colours. However, Indian art is much appreciated and admired for its traditional and cultural traits. But over a period of time, contemporary Indian artists took Indian art to another level. Most of these artists portrayed what was intrinsic to them such as their philosophies, emotions, culture and religion.

M.F. Hussain was one of the Indian contemporary artists who loved to experiment with different painting mediums. He would use oils, water colour and acrylics in his works. The themes of his paintings differed greatly but most of it drew inspiration from certain topics such as the Mahabharata, famous iconic figures such as Mother Teresa. In 1967, he received the National Film Award for best experimental film for 'Through the Eyes of a Painter.'





Amrita Shergill, one of the most famous painters of India, was born on 30th January, 1913 in Budapest city of Hungary. Her father, Umrao Singh Shergill Majithia was a Sikh aristocrat, who was a scholar in Sanskrit. Her mother was a Hungarian singer, Marie Antoinette Gottesmann. Most of her paintings reflect vividly her love for the country and more importantly her response to the life of its people.

Raja Ravi Varma is considered as one of the greatest painters in the history of Indian arts. He is famous for his depiction of scenes from the epics of the Mahabharata and Ramayana. Raja Ravi Varma is most remembered for his paintings of beautiful saree clad women, who were portrayed in shape and graceful. He is considered as modern among traditionalists and a rationalist among moderns.





Manjit Bawa was born in Dhuri in Punjab in 1941, studied at the College of Art, Delhi, and did his diploma at the London school of Printing, Essex in Silk Screen Printing. He was one of the first painters of his time to break out of the conventional colours-greys and browns and instead chose to paint in traditional Indian colours such as yellow, red, pink and violet.

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Tyeb Mehta was a well-known Indian artist, who was known all over the world for his brilliant painting. Tyeb Mehta was very self critical and had very high standards for considering a work complete and fit for sale. It is said that he destroyed seven to eight paintings for every one that he sold. He held the record for the highest price for which an Indian painting has ever been sold, in a public auction.





Anjolie Ela Menon is among India's leading contemporary female artists, who have created a name for themselves in the domestic as well as international art scenario. Her works are a part of significant painting collections across the globe. One of her art works, 'Yatra' was recently picked up by the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco in California in the year 2006.

Jamini Roy was one of the most significant and influential painters of the 20th century. He was born in a middle-class family in 1887 at Beliator village in Bankura district of Bengal. Roy adopted the simplification of the forms, the bold flat colours and the medium, material and themes of local folk paintings. He discarded expensive canvas and oil paint and opted for the more inexpensive material and medium of the folk artist.



Read the clues and write the answer using the help card :

1. The ancient art of India can be evidenced in the magnificent murals in the caves of Maharashtra. Besides murals, there are magnificent stone sculptures of Hindu deities, the Buddha and Jain Tirthankaras. There are three such caves which have been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Two are the Ajanta and the Elephant. Which is the third one?

2. In ancient India under the rule of the Kushanas, the Satavahanas and the Mauryas, two schools of sculptures were developed. Both these schools were famous for sculptures of Buddha which they created in different styles. Can you name these two schools?

3. Born in Hungary, she became one of India's most celebrated artists. She is often called India's Frida Kahlo. Who was she ?

4. Often known as the Picasso of India, he became one of the most successful artists in India. He unfortunately passed away in June, 2011. He was also a writer and a film-maker. Who was he?

5. He was one of the founders of the Bengal school of Painting. He was also the nephew of the Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Who was he ?

6. The famous miniature painting style flourished under the rule of the Mughal ruler Akbar, but it declined under the rule of another Mughal emperor,. Name this emperor.

Help Card

Aurangzeb, Ellora Caves, Mathura Gandhara,
Maqbool Fida Hussain, Amrita Shergill, Abanindranath Tagore

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