

Chapter - 2

The Rajasthani Schools of Painting

Que 1. In what ways do you think that the Western Indian manuscript painting tradition guided the developments of miniature painting traditions in Rajasthan?

Ans.

- In western parts of India the major centres of painting were the Western Indian School of Painting in Gujarat, and southern parts of Rajasthan as other centres.
- Most often minerals and precious metals like gold and silver which were mixed with a special binding glue were used as the source of colour and pigments.
- Brushes were obtained from camel and squirrel hair.
- The master artist composed the preliminary drawings, which was followed by colouring, portraiture, architecture, landscaping etc. pupils or experts.

Que 2. Describe different schools of Rajasthani paintings and give examples to support their characteristics.

Ans.

- The 'Rajasthani Schools of Painting' originated in the princely kingdoms of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- Under the Rajasthani paintings, there were four principal schools which are named as follows:
 1. **Mewar school of painting:** This was based on Nathdwara, Devgarh, and Shahpura sub-styles.
 2. **Marwar school of painting:** It was influenced by Kishangarh, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, and Ghanerao styles.
 3. **Hadoti school of painting:** It was based on different styles of Kota, Bundi, and Jhalawar.
 4. **Dhundar school of painting:** It was based on Amber, Jaipur, Shekhawati, and Uniara styles.
- All of these four schools were influenced by the Mughal connection.
- This connection rose when Raja Bharmal's daughter, Jodha, was married to Akbar in 1562.

- This newly developed marital alliances between the Rajputs with Mughals paved way to new important changes in the various styles of paintings.

Que 3. What is Ragamala? Give examples of Ragamala paintings from various schools of Rajasthan.

Ans.

- A ragamala is derived from Sanskrit as "garland of ragas".
- It refers to a group of paintings which represent a wide range of different musical tunes that are known as ragas.
- The source word is raga, and it indicated color, mood, and delight.
- Ragamala paintings are usually organized in albums which held about 36 or 42 folios.
- They were arranged in the format of families.
- Each of the family is lead by a male raga, and it had six female consorts which were called raginis.
- An example of a ragamala is the Bihari Satsai, which is authored by Bihari Lal.
- It has nearly 700 verses (satsai) and it is made in the form of aphorisms and moralizes witticism.

Que 4. Draw a map and label all schools of Rajasthani miniature paintings.

Ans. Do your self

Que 5. Which texts provided the content or theme for miniature paintings? Describe them with examples.

Ans.

- The Bhagavata Purana illustrations depict numerous scenarios from the life of Lord Krishna and his Leela.
- This theme has prevailed throughout the medieval period of art.
- In one of the paintings, illustrations show the killing of demon Shaktasura by Krishna.
- Such folio from the Bhagavata Purana is a characteristic example of Malwa style.
- This is eminent from the strictly compartmentalized sections that tell different scenes of an episode, which depicts Malwa style.
- Another example is a Ragamala painting from Mewar which is widely known for its significant documentary proof about its artist, purchaser, place, and date of the painting.
- Maru Ragini, which represents Maru as the ragini of Raga Shri, describes her physical beauty and its effect on her beloved.