

**FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT
HISTORY OF INDIAN ART – CLASS XII
WORKSHEET NO. 9**

Origin and Development of the Deccan School of Miniature Painting

Origin and Development

Deccan art denotes broadly the miniatures rendered from 16th to 19th centuries A.D. at Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golkonda and Hyderabad. These independent states have their own distinct geographical and historical identity known as Deccan.

Deccan had its own distinction in art, culture, dramatics, linguistics, social values, costumes, religious beliefs, thoughts and ideas.

The style and themes in Deccan miniatures are an amalgamation (combination) of various art elements and influences especially the elements of early indigenous (local) art traditions of the Deccan and Islamic idiom of Iran, Persia, Turkey.

Phases of Deccan Art

Early phases evolved at the Adil Shahi court of Bijapur, where several Irani, Persian and Turkish painters, calligraphers, scholars came to Bijapur. Skilled in Islamic Art style these artists rendered paintings on pure Islamic themes and in a pure Islamic idiom.

The second phase started when the later generations of Muslim rulers of Deccan states, Bijapur, Golkonda, Ahmednagar and Hyderabad had their roots on Indian soil. They were inclined to Indian Mysticism. Besides, the artists they had were mostly local or local descendants of earlier immigrants who came from Iran, Persia and Turkey.

The third phase initiated in the 18th century at Hyderabad when another form of Deccan art came into existence. It blended with the romantic passion of the former Golconda School as well as the stylistic elements and the refinement of the Mughal art.

Visible styles of Deccan Art:

1. The rhythmic delicacy of Persia.
2. The lush sensuality of the Deccan.
3. Three dimensional aspects European Art which can be clearly seen in delineation of buildings.
4. Tall, fair complexioned and emotionally charged males and sensuous looking females.
5. The people are endowed with lovely faces, large wide open eyes, bold features, broad foreheads, high necks, triangularly slanting waists and neatly carved figures, each one characterized by excitement, vigour, moods, sentiments and dramatic intensity infused into its being.