

## **CONTEMPORARY INDIAN PAINTERS INFLUENCED BY FRANCE AND ITS ARTISTIC MOVEMENTS**

**DURGA DEVI M.V**

**Research scholar , Department of French , University of Madras, Chennai,  
Tamil Nadu**

### **ABSTRACT**

India, land of diversity has strong roots and traditions in all forms of art and architecture. The rich cultural diversity in India is reflected in all its art forms. Until the dawn 20<sup>th</sup> century Indian painters pertained to follow classical style and instigated with figurative, landscape, portraits, and scenes from Hindu mythology. Globalization brought a great change form figuration to abstractionism. Abstract art came into existence from post-impressionism, an important artistic movement developed in France in the turn of 20<sup>th</sup> century. Paris, The capital of France became a cultural hub and dream destination for many eminent artists around the world to visit and exhibit in Paris . Georges Braque, Cézanne and Pablo Picasso introduced a new way of expressing reality. A great transformation after independence from classical to modern was witnessed by a group of Indian artists who were influenced by French art , Indian painters staring observing and incorporating these modern techniques and ideas. After independence, Indian contemporary artists formed different progressive groups and started art schools in various cities of India like Mumbai, Calcutta, Baroda, Delhi and Madras. The contemporary painters from these art schools created a great revolution in the field of modern art and exhibited an influence of French artistic movements in their painting.

**KEYWORDS:** India, France, French artistic movements, Classical, Figurization, Post impressionism, Abstract art, Progressive , Contemporary.

### **A new approach to paintings**

India artists Amrita Sher-Gil, Radhinranth Tagore, Bendre, M.F Hussain called “Picasso of India” ,S.H Raza , Souza ,Ram kumar exhibited a mélange of Indian symbolism and French expressionism, impressionism and Cubism in their jubilant works. Most of Indian artists continued to experiment with currents of western modernism moving from expressionist modes towards greater abstraction and eventually incorporating elements of Nature, vibrate brush strokes , splendid colors and Tantrism from Indian scriptures. The concept of “Mandala”,”Bindu”-a black dot in Raza’s painting is an important element in Indian aesthetics. Most of Raza’s works are based on Indian astrology and Science which he exhibits incorporating French cubism.

### **Indian contemporary painters and art schools in Paris .**

The migration of Indian artists to France significantly increased after Second World War and mainly after the end of British rule in India. Few artists were awarded with scholarships to study in various art schools in France, Académie Julin, The Académie de la Grande chaumière , Standley William Hayte “ Atelier 17”r. Indian artists crystallizing their expectations took course formation and training in these art schools and establish their careers in French artistic networks. The art schools were sites of creation and experimentation for artistic production.

### **Indian painters and museums in Paris**

France’s main attraction is its vast and wide variety of world-class museums. The largest museum in the world are found in city of Paris. Louvres, the Musée D’Orsay, Centre Pompidou are remarkable and renowned with Jubilant collections Louvre museum as the Royal collections by Francois Ier, Louis XIV collections

The train station d'Orsay “ Gare d'Orsay” was converted into Musée d'Orsay in 1986 ,where the painting collected after 1848 revolution were moved to this museum. Musée d'Orsay housed the collection of Renoir, Monet, Manet. Degas,Cézanne, Seurat and Van Gosh. These painting displayed in Musée d'Orsay became a visual treat to our Indian painters. They learnt about different elements, fragmentation and construction . Indian painters regularly visited these museums to study the style and construction of the painting. When Indian painters were interviewed about their painting works they have highlighted about the museum in France which has been motivating and inspiring ground for their creations.

### **Atelier 17**

In 1950 , Standley William Hayter ,painter and famous printmaker founder of the studio “Atelier 17”moved his studio from New York to Paris. He was associated with surrealism until 1930 and slowly started diverting to abstract expressionism since 1940. Hayter bent the technical rules of printmaking and blazed new aesthetic terrain with their etchings, engravings, multicolored printing and textured patterns and woodcuts. “Atelier 17” served as an egalitarian laboratory for revolutionizing print technique, style, and scale. It facilitated artists around the world to engage with modernist styles, providing a forum for extraordinary achievements Krishna reddy a renowned Indian painter from chitoor district of Andra Pradesh joined this studio in 1960 and associated with intaglio printing. He developed master pieces with viscosity of inks in single matrix. Many contemporary painters from India like Akbar padamsee, Joen chwdhudry, Himmat shah,Kanwal Krishna , Laxmi Dutt , were trained in Atelier 17.

### Paintings with French titles - Indian artists

Giving a title to a painting is an important and interesting task for a painter. The painting can be titled or untitled the decision is left on the hands of the painter. Sometimes artist wish to name the creative expression. Titling helps the viewers to get a clue that might help them on a voyage of imagination and discovery. Indian artists in France started to give French titles to their works.

Name of the artist	year	Title in French	In English
RAZA S.H	1961	Ciel Rouge	Red Sky
RAZA S.H	1967	L'été	The summer
Krishna Reddy	1981	Le clown célèbre	The famous clown
Akkitham Narayanan	1992	Être	To Be

Few of the contemporary Indian artists in France left the painting untitled as they decided it may mislead the imagination of the viewers. They gave the freedom to all creative minds to visualize and interpret their paintings.

### Conclusion:

A clear conclusion can be drawn that a group of Indian artists attempted to formulate an indigenous abstraction based on French artistic movements. The works of many Indian artist depicts that the eclectic knowledge possessed by him were transformed to visual form of painting highlighting abstract and modern expressions influenced by France. Few of Indian artist in France were recognized with civilian award for his significant aesthetic work .

### REFERENCES:

1. Delhi art Gallery, *Indias French connections* .New Delhi,DAG,2018
2. Brocvielle Vincent . *L'Histoire de l'art* .,Paris ,Larousse,2006.

3. Mago, Pran Nath, *Contemporary Art in India- A Perspective*, National Book Trust, New Delhi, 2001.
4. Vajpeyi Ashok, *A Life in Art: Raza*, Art Alive Gallery, New Delhi, 2007.
5. Doctor, Geeta, *Cholamandal: A Brief and Abstract Chronicle*, 2005
- 6.. Ray, Pranabranjan, K.C.S.Panikar and his Words and Symbols, ART news& views, Nov.2010.
- 7.Kapur, Geeta, *Contemporary Indian Artists*, Vikas Publication House, New Delhi, 1978.
8. Hoskote, Ranjit, *Parts of a World: Reflections on the Art of Ram Kumar*, 2002.
9. Giorgina Bertolino. *Comment identifier les mouvements artistique* .Edition Hazan, Paris, 2009.
- 10.Sakti Burman “*The Wonder of it all*” ,New Delhi Purnima Pai and Laxman Pai 2000.
- 11.Krishna Reddy , *A Retrospective*, New Delhi, I.C.C.R and Lalith Kala Akademi 1961
- 12.Alliance Française *Indian Artist for France*, The Embassy of France in India, 2004