

VISUAL WORLD OF WARLI



An Interactive e-book

Visual World of Warli



01

03

Types of warli paintings

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ORIGIN OF WARLI PAINTINGS

Chapter 1



VISUAL WORLD OF WARLI

Origin of Warli Painting

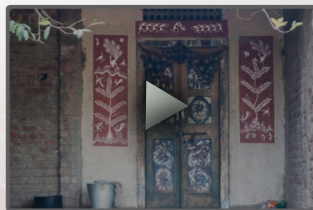


Traditional wall painting

The Warlis are an indigenous Tribe of people who have lived in the Thane District of Maharashtra for centuries. They were originally hunters but with deforestation & access denied to the existing forests, paddy farming is now the main stay of their existence. Even today, their entire life revolves around nature. Warli is derived from the word “Woral” which means a small piece of tilled land. Warlis speak an unwritten language which consists of Sanskrit, Marathi, Gujarati dialects.

Warli Art was first discovered in the early seventies. While there are no records of the exact origins of this art, its roots may be traced to as early as the 10th century AD. When such men learnt to build walls of the house.

Warli is the vivid expression of daily and social events of the Warli tribe of Maharashtra, used by them to decorate the walls of village houses. This was the only means



Origin of Warli Painting



Traditional hut

This was the only means of transmitting folklore to others who are not acquainted with the written word.

The Warlis are well known today amongst elite circles for their unique form of decorative art. They paint life with an intricacy of detail & an amazingly beautiful way of depicting every aspect that surround their daily routine. Traditionally, they painted on walls during the time of celebrations or for auspicious occasions, but gradually over the years the images & themes were also transferred to small curios made of bamboo, cloth, pots of mud & dried bottle gourd. One of the main themes that occur in their paintings is that of people dancing in spirals & open-ended circles. For the Warlis, time is akin to a circle with cycles within cycles repeating themselves endlessly. They see themselves as joyous dancers in this time frame. This cyclic nature of time is played out in all spheres of their life and can be best seen in their annual cycle of work, thanksgiving, enjoyment & work again.

Origin of Warli Painting



Warli's traditional hut

Their art also expresses an interesting aspect of their inherent philosophy, that of austerity. All their stories, with its various moods & nuances are expressed with just two basic colours – the brown of the earth & the white of the rice paste.

Warli paintings are traditionally the domain of Warli women (savasini). These paintings were made on the walls of the houses at the time of marriage by suvasinis or married women whose husband are living and as considered to be a good omen. But over the years as the contact with the mainstream culture and the commercial value increased this art was taken over by the men folks. Unlike other folk and tribal paintings of India the warli paintings do not depict any mythological stories. The theme is centred on the flora and fauna in the environment and their festivals and their day to day activities.



CATEGORIES OF WARLI PAINTING

Chapter 2



VISUAL WORLD OF WARLI

Categories of Warli Painting



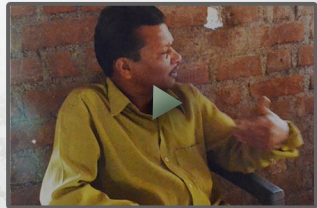
Painting on animals

Warli painting can be divided into four categories:

1) The Gods, 2) The People, 3) The Animals and 4) Rights and rituals. Warlis paint around these four major categories, In The Gods they have their old folk stories which they paint, about their gods and how they created the world. They also paint on the themes of God punishing people for showing disrespect to the mother earth. These paintings tells us about their devotional nature towards the supreme power of the Nature and their Gods.

Under the category of The People they mostly paint about good deeds which one should do in his or her life and bad deeds which one should keep himself away from. Under The Animals they have the stories of their pet animals like dogs, cows,

buffalos, hen, goats and all the other animals living with them in the jungle. The most famous paintings they paint is on Tiger.



Categories of Warli Painting



Painting on animals

But the most commonly painted paintings are under the Theme of ‘Rights and Rituals, in which they paint about festivals, celebrations and other auspicious occasions.

Like all tribal warli’s too are simple, docile and fun loving folks. Festivals and occasions are celebrated with dance, music, food and alcohol. Warli people celebrates many festivals and this celebration involves singing, dancing, drinking and decorating house walls with paintings under the theme of those festivals. For the festival Diwali, which is celebrated by performing ‘Tarpa Dance’, They paint men and women singing and performing Tarpa Dance, on their walls. This painting is one of the most famous painting which shows people dancing in spirals & open-ended circles. For the Warlis, time is akin to a circle – with cycles within cycles repeating themselves endlessly. They see themselves as joyous dancers in this time frame. This cyclic nature of time is played out in all spheres of their life and can be best seen in their annual cycle of work, thanksgiving, enjoyment & work again.



Categories of Warli Painting



Painting on folk a story

Their art also expresses an interesting aspect of their inherent philosophy, that of austerity. All their stories, with its various moods & nuances are expressed with just two basic colours, the brown of the earth & the white of the rice paste.

Like all the other occasions such as marriage, birth and death. They celebrate marriage by painting on the walls. It is the most famous painting known as 'Chawk' where Women called Savasini (married women whose husbands are alive), paint a Chawk on their sacred kitchen wall facing the main room. Before starting to paint, these walls are first plastered with cow dung and the most important part of the wall is coated with red mud. On this a Chawk is made and in the center is placed the Mother Goddess Palaghata, as she has to be present for the wedding. The Goddess Palaghata represents the goddess of fertility. The space around the Chawk is filled with dotted trees providing shade to the goddess, animals, and men doing various activities like dancing, playing music, climbing trees, carrying loads, or just standing with their limbs flying in the air and also various objects used by women in their married life.



Categories of Warli Painting



Warli's traditional painting

It also includes the sun and the moon, which means the bride, will enjoy marital bliss till the time the sun and the moon shine on the earth. In fact the marriage can't take place without this event.

For Warlis whole year is full of celebrations and occasions. Starting from June to September they are busy in managing their fields and after September they harvest their crops which is celebrated only after Saavari the field Goddess is thanked for her generosity. Its an auspicious occasion for them to decorate their home with their traditional paintings, using traditional method of painting. The painting commonly shows people celebrating their harvest at one corner and at the other people are worshipping Goddess Saavaria and thanking her for her generosity.



Categories of Warli Painting



Painting on daily activities

Warli paintings on paper have become very popular and are now sold all over India. Today, small paintings are done on cloth and paper but they look best on the walls or in the form of huge murals that bring out the vast and magical world of the Warlis. For the Warlis, tradition is still adhered to but at the same time new ideas have been allowed to seep in which helps them face new challenges from the market.

These paintings do not depict mythological characters or images of deities, but depict social life. Images of human beings and animals, along with scenes from daily life are created in a loose rhythmic pattern. Painted white on mud walls, they are pretty close to prehistoric cave paintings in execution and usually depict scenes of human figures engaged in activities like hunting, dancing, sowing, harvesting, going out, drawing water from well, drying clothes or even dancing.

Their painting exhibits a beautiful pattern and the use of space is very fascinating on the entire surface, they have a swirling movement to describe their daily activity.



Categories of Warli Painting



Gods they worship

They respect and love the nature from the most gigantic to the smallest creature or plant.

The most famous warli paintings are the Chawks drawn by the Suvasini during the marriage and the Tarpa dance. The paintings in two colour the base of cow dung or on Geru or red mud and the figures in white. This colour is made by grounding of rice and mixing with true gum. As the Warli have come in contact with modernity it is reflected in their painting which depicts train, aeroplane, rickshaw, and other modern modes of transport at the same time maintaining the art form. In other words the warli painting depicts their social, economical, cultural, spiritual and cosmological perspective.



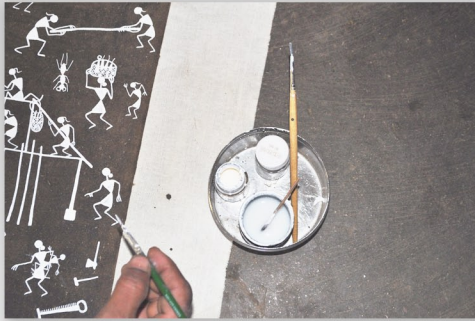
PROCESS OF WARLI PAINTING

Chapter 3



VISUAL WORLD OF WARLI

Process of Warli Painting



Warli artist painting canvas

The grammar of Warli painting is simple. They are based on three elementary shapes combined in various ways 1) The triangle (reminiscent of the pointed form of the sacred mountains and human forms) 2) The circle (the sun and the moon) and the visual pattern of the narration. 3) The square (which is the shape both of the sacred space and the piece of land) Dots and dashes represents geometrical designs and single line. Through this mural painting, the Warli represent their oral legends, such as that of Narayandev, which tells of the transition from the nomadic life to that of agricultural permanence, or those that explain the origins of the names of the tribes.

Until the end of the '60s, almost exclusively women did Warli painting but now it's the men folk who are engaged in the art. The figures and traditional motifs are very repetitive and highly symbolic. When looked closely, they have a light singing and swirling movement, describing their daily activities.



Process of Warli Painting



Ironing the canvas

They communicate through their paintings and their life style and passion for nature are depicted simply. A multiplicity of events takes place simultaneously, and the perspective changes. Each painting has numerous elements giving a vast panoramic view. The subjects found in these paintings are wedding scenes, various animals, birds, trees, men, women, children, descriptive harvest scene, group of men dancing around a person playing the music, dancing peacocks, and many more.

Their old traditional method of painting is, They paint on walls coated with cow dung which is the base of the painting. On the top of this cow dung coated wall they paint with white paste made of rice. They still follow the same method of painting on walls but when it comes to paint on canvases, paper, cloth, clay pots and other materials the procedure varies.



Process of Warli Painting



An artist starting to paint

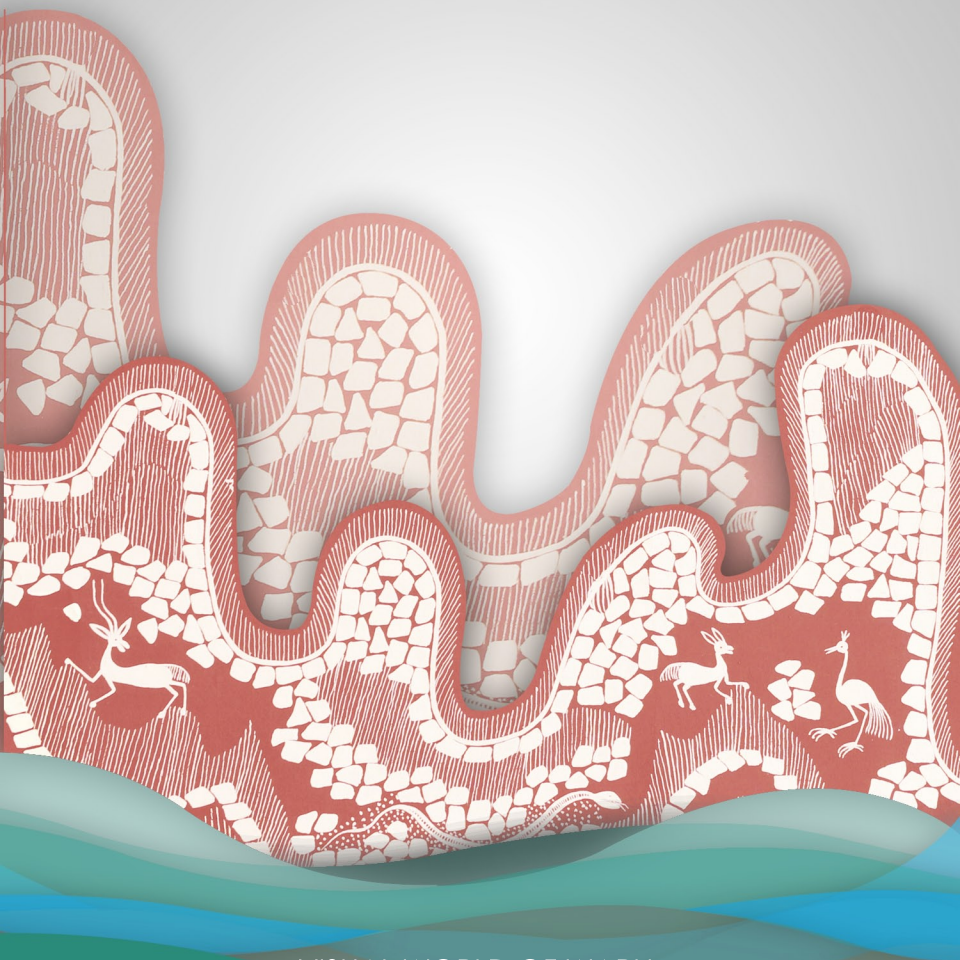
To paint on canvas they use poster colour mixed with glue to make it more durable. For the base they still use the same material, cow dung, coal, indigo, mud, geru but mixed with glue. After coating the canvas with the base colour they keep it for an hour or two to get dry. They iron the canvas up side down to make it wrinkle free before starting to paint on it. Warlis do not use any tracing sheets or rough drawings they just have a good story in mind.

Traditionally their paintings are made on walls and the colours they use to paint on walls are not permanent colours. Typical the Background colours of their paintings are Henna, Indigo, Ochre, Black, Earthy mud, Brick red (*Geru*).



TIPS & TRICKS

Chapter 4



Tips & Tricks

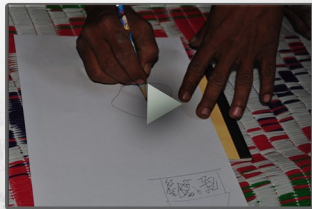


Painting on doors.

In 1966 during a severe drought, the All India Handicrafts Board sent artist Bhaskar Kulkarni to Mithila to encourage the women to paint the same motifs on paper that they previously painted on walls and floors thus enabling them to sell their artwork to augment their family income. The tradition of painting murals inside and outside the homes is vanishing rapidly, but the Madhubani art form continues to evolve. Art in this region has empowered rural women, given them recognition in their family and society.

In the early 70's he came to warli tribe and taught them also how to make their painting more substantial. He taught them to paint on canvases, clothes, paper and other materials and to use paint brushes instead of using twigs to paint, which gave their painting more crisp and firm look.

He introduced synthetic colours to their paintings which made it more durable and bright. Instead of using rice paste for colouring he made them use Poster colours and fabric colours.



Tips & Tricks



Painting on wall

It was a time which brought a change in the World of Warli paintings. In late 70's it got introduced to society and today The Warlis are well known amongst elite circles for their unique form of decorative art. This big change brought by Bhasker Kulkarni made this art more durable, extraordinary.

Now For their sustenance Warli artists have adapted in modern form of painting and colouring using different mediums. In order to compete with other art materials coming in the market which are produced in bulk at low cost consuming less time, they are adopting modern methods and new themes of painting which will interest their buyers.

They paint on canvases what they used to paint on walls before and the method of painting is also different as that of wall painting. In the process of painting a canvas they first make the colour for the base, as their painting has two colours basically for background and for fore ground. For back ground they use Geru (red mud, brown mud), Charcoal and Cow dung. In the process of painting a canvas they use the same colour but they mix it with glue which makes the base more durable.



Tips & Tricks



Painting on wooden piece

After applying it on the canvas they leave it for 2-3 hours to get it dry. They iron the painted canvas upside down to remove the folds. For painting the fore ground they use white poster colour mixed with glue instead of using rice paste which has no durability.

According to the different medium they follow different methods of paintings. For painting on cloths they simply use fabric colours. They paint on Sari, Kurta salwars, Dupattas, T-shirts, bags, scarfs etc. In decorative items they paint on clay pots, mugs and other items using permanent colours and dyes.



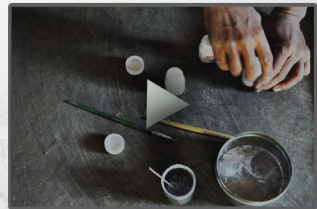
Process of Warli Painting



Warli painting process

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Until the end of the '60s, almost exclusively women did Warli painting but now it's the men folk who are engaged in the art. The figures and traditional motifs are very repetitive and highly symbolic. When looked closely, they have a light singing and swirling movement, describing their daily activities.



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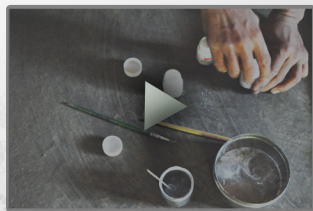
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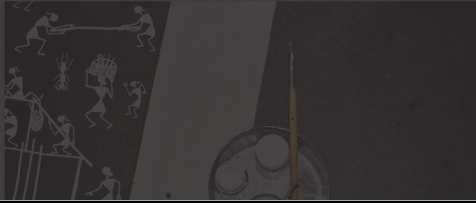
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Process of Warli Painting



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Process of Warli Painting



An artist painting on a canvas using poster colours



**Rakesh
Singh**



3rd july,2012

Traditionally their paintings are made on walls and the colours they use to paint on walls are not permanent colours. Typical the Background colours of their paintings are Henna, Indigo, Ochre, Black...(read more)

Pradeep



4th july,2012

The word “ Warli” comes from “warla” which means a piece of land or a field Despite being in such close proximity of the largest metropolis in India, Warli tribesmen are still not urban...(read more)

Neha



7th july,2012

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Process of Warli Painting



An artist painting on a canvas using poster colours

Search Sunil Ravate



Sunil Ravate



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7th july,2012

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Process of Warli Painting



An artist painting on a canvas using poster colours

Sunil
Ravate



3rd july,2012

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An artist painting on a canvas

Suril
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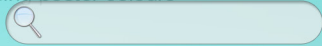
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Process of Warli Painting



An artist painting on a canvas using poster colours



Rakesh Singh



3rd July, 2012



Pradeep Kapoor



4th July, 2012



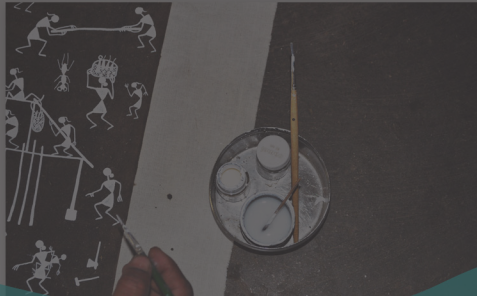
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7th July, 2012



Process of Warli Painting



4th July, 2012

Neha



7th July, 2012



Process of Warli Painting



an artist painting on a canvas using poster colours



Rakesh Singh



3rd july,2012



Pradeep Kapoor



4th july,2012



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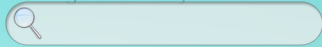
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Process of Warli Painting



Warli wemon painting wall during marriage ceremony



Rakesh Singh



3rd july,2012



Pradeep



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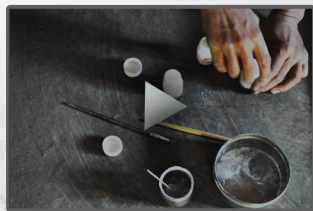
Process of Warli Painting



Warli women painting wall during marriage ceremony

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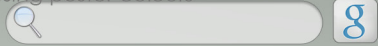
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An artist painting on a canvas using poster colours



Rakesh Singh



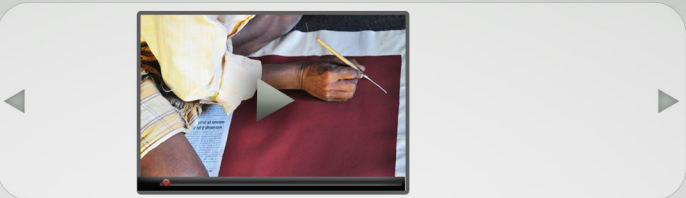
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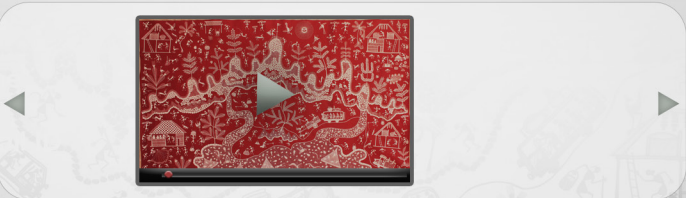
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Neha



7th july,2012



Process of Warli Painting



7th July, 2012



Traditional Warli Art



Rakesh
Singh



Brows

file:///Users/radhikakapoor/Desktop/J

Title

Painting by warli artist

Name

Radhika kapoor

E-mail ID

radhika@gmail.com

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