Study of the Miniature Paintings of Rajasthani School

1. Raja Aniruddha Singh Hara

Name: Raja Aniruddha Singh Hara
Painter: Utkal Ram
Medium: Water colours on paper
Circa: Early 18th Century
Sub-school: Bundi
Technique: Tempera
Collection: National Museum, New Delhi

DESCRIPTION
This painting was painted by Utkal Ram in the beginning of the 18th century. In this painting, a young Rajput king has been shown wearing decorated apparels, jewels, and a wonderfully decorated turban of Mughal style on his head. His eyes have been shown rather sentimental. The particular attraction of this painting is the straight stretched tail of the horse. All the ornamental elements in this painting have been painted in red, orange and yellow-brown colours. White-coloured horse and apparels of the king have been delineated in charming combination. The king has been shown holding the rein of the horse in his left hand very proudly and in his right hand, he has been holding a beautiful flower.

In the background of the painting, the combination of deep colours has been used in such a way that the main object seems protruding and to be successful in centring the attention of the people.

The Rajasthani School of Miniature Painting
2. Maru-Ragini

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**DESCRIPTION**

Maru-ragini is an important miniature painting of ‘Ragmala’ series painted by Sahibdin, a courtier painter of Mewar. In this painting of 18th century, the king and the queen are shown riding on a camel back in desert background. Their apparels have been shown transparent and decorated with adornment.

The camel is shown in running position and fully decorated according to the status of the riders. An attendant is proceeding ahead of the camel, while two male escorts with swords, lances/spears and daggers have been shown in motion. A white hound has been shown running ahead of both the escorts.

In the background, to show winding surface, green-yellow colours have been used with proper effect. All the human figures have been shown wearing deep-coloured apparels and turbans of Mughal style on their heads. The king’s turban has been shown different from all the other turbans.

This painting belongs to the sub-school of Mewar and has been surrounded by simple border of orange-colour. The calligraphic work in Devnagari Script has also been done on the top of the painting.
4. Radha (Bani-Thani)

Name: Radha (Bani-Thani)  
Painter: Nihal Chand  
Medium: Water colours on paper  
Circa: 1760 A.D.  
Sub-school: Kishangarh  
Technique: Tempera  
Collection: National Museum, New Delhi

DESCRIPTION
Radha (Bani-Thani) of Kishangarh is the most famous miniature painting of Rajasthani school. Famous artist Nihalchand made it very beautifully. The Government of India had issued a postal stamp on this miniature painting.

In the painting, Radha is smiling mysteriously and her eyes with womanly beauty are worth seeing. In this artistic portrait, Radha's face has been shown large in size. The forehead is in proper curvature. The nose is long, sharp and pointed. The arched eyebrows and lips have been shown thin and red.

The black curly hair is hanging down up to the waist, and a thick lock of hair is dangling down on the cheek. She is very softly holding two buds of lotus in her left hand. In her right hand, she is holding her gold-studded bordered transparent chunari (orhani) in a graceful womanly manner. Her apparels and jewels have been painted according to the Rajput tradition.

The chunari has been knowingly made transparent so that the wearing jewels, clothes and parts of her body could be glitter athwart. The background has been shown with different gleams of dark blue colour.