

Role of Shapes in Paintings

Dr. Om Prakash Mishra

Professor

Minerwa Institute of Management & Tech.

Dehradun, Uttrakhand

Email: mishraop200@gmail.com

Aviral Malik

Research Scholer

Minerwa Institute of Management & Tech.

Dehradun, Uttrakhand

Reference to this paper
should be made as follows:

**Dr. Om Prakash Mishra,
Aviral Malik**

Role of Shapes in Paintings

Artistic Narration 2024,
Vol. XV, No. 1,
Article No. 3 pp. 10-15

Online available at:

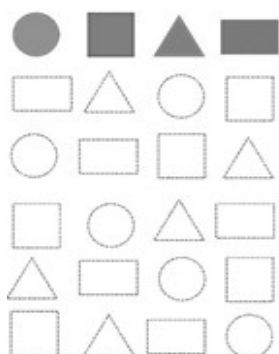
[https://anubooks.com/
journal/artistic-narration](https://anubooks.com/journal/artistic-narration)

Abstract

Shape is a basic identity of any object, it helps us to evaluate any form in the simplest way possible. So does it help to construct any structural base for any idea that needs to be portrayed on canvas or in any medium suitable for an artist. The study of shapes playing their vital role in fine arts, especially in painting and sculpting is thoroughly discussed in this research paper.

Keywords

Painting, sculpting, shapes, form, regular shapes, irregular shapes, artist, fine arts.



Physical nature around us is immensely diverse in every aspect, it carries the beauty of a germinating seed and also derives us from the unpleasant views of the volcanic eruption. Our eyes witness the outer world according to our psychological, physical, and emotional growth therefore every eye sees the world according to their life's experiences but a singular thing that constructs a physical form in a way it could be visualized and gets identified similarly to all is shape.

Shape is basically an outlook of any object that helps to give it a specific physical identity and displays the formative information in the most simplest way. Shapes and forms aren't two diversely different concepts, the only basic difference among them is that shapes are two-dimensional and carry height and width and form is a representation of three-dimensional objects that signifies height width and breadth.

The concept of shape is among the first things to be taught in preschools that holds on the responsibility to nurture most raw forms of the human brain. This process generally grants you the responsibility to behold an anecdotal representation of the catchiness shapes have in them as they could act as the primary source for humans to know about the physical things present around them most simply.

We humans tend to neglect the most basic things around us and dive deep into complicated scenarios to create unnecessary havoc around us to prove ourselves superior to others. Shapes and Forms are one of the first examples of this human behavior.



Irregular shapes in nature around us we witness in our daily lives.

Everything around us has a particular shape it may vary from regular to irregular shapes which really doesn't matter as a matter of the fact is that any physical form that is

visible to humans through eyes or any man-made medium it carries its own unique identity in the form of shape that could never be neglected at any parameter.

Several kinds of impact could be observed on the human psyche created by shapes around them since the long vast history of human existence. The most prominent example of this is recited in the religious texts and rituals performed for ages. Even though despite of religious beliefs and spiritual awareness, scientific studies and observations prove that different kind of shapes carry their own kind of aura and impact. For example Triangles carry the audacity to represent strength, power, growth and capability to hold on to the energy within it.

Shapes are normally defined into two categories **Regular** and **Irregular** shapes. Regular shapes are geometrical shapes that are majorly man-made shapes and irregular shapes are natural shapes that recite in nature and have no justification regarding the process they went through to get itself into that kind of shape.

When it comes to fine arts and particularly it comes to painting and sculpting, shapes and forms play a vital role as these are the building blocks to construct any kind of visual representation portrayed on any surface in any medium by an artist.

Humans have been in the thrall of shapes since the time when humans built their first equipment till the present day when they have created a virtual world and technology like AI. Shapes help us to create the foundational form of any visionary idea and so does it helps an artist to perform. For example, if a kid wants to draw a sun he knows a circle needs to be drawn, a car could be drawn rectangular or in the form of a square, a tree and river would be in irregular shapes, and a mountain would be definitely a triangle. This shows how the human conscious and subconscious move hand in hand identifying an object in a particular way and representing it in the exact same or most closest shape to the original one that had been observed identically.



Figurative study with shapes

When a student enters any fine arts institute with a quench of knowledge regarding sculpting, painting, applied arts or fashion designing etc. he or she is first advised to observe the shapes of objects they are designed to draw, they are instructed to draw geometrical patterns to understand the psyche of shapes and what kind of impact they can create if arranged finely with combination of suitable colors. As the students evolve they are assigned to work on still life, a nature study that could be merely performed without understanding the basic shape of that particular object that needs to be drawn.

Be it the immature level of an artist or even the mature ones, shape is one of the most essential parts of their painting or any kind of work they produce be it sculpture, mural etc. to balance it on the principles of aesthetics.

Several art movements in the past are even symbolized around shapes and such art movements are

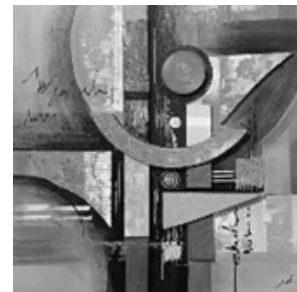
- **CUBISM**
- **FUTURISM**
- **FAUVISM**
- **ABSTRACT**



Cubism.



Fauvism. - Futurism.



Abstract

Though every art movement had some essence regarding the importance of shapes but these have the most prominent role and Cubism can be stated as one of the most famous and influential art movements in history that is directly associated with shapes and to such extent that its name is derived from a 3D form of the square called a cube.

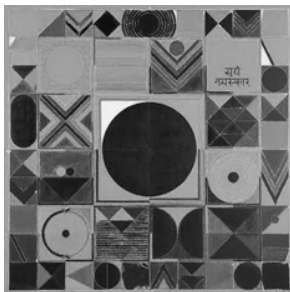
Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque are the two main artists who had sown the seeds of Cubism and that resulted in a huge tree of revolutionary vision in the history of Art.



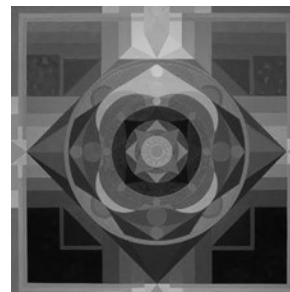
WASSILY KANDINSKY
VaHem-Red Blue - 1913

Artist Wassily Kandinsky is also one of the most famous artists who played all his life with shapes and dominated an art movement called **Abstract** art that relied highly on the existence of shapes. A few more artists such as Piet Mondrian and Kazimir Malevich etc. played a vital role in portraying the dominance of shapes in art especially in painting.

Indian artists like S.H Raza and Om Prakash Mishra had worked immensely on the geometrical shapes according to their own observations in their own styles of working as Raza majorly had pancetta as his theme of work and Mishra worked on the rhythm of music and neo-tantra.



Work of S.H. RAZA.



Work of OM PRAKASH SHARMA

Few more Indian artists who had experimented with shapes throughout their artistic journey are

- Sudhir Talmale
- Edy Dinar
- Ashok Bhowmick
- Haren Thakur
- Nagesh Ghodke

- Arnab Basu
- G.R Santosh

References

1. Chaturvedi, Dr. Mamta. (2017). Saundryashastra. Anurag Book Dist. 01 January. Country of origin – INDIA.
2. Pratap, Dr. Reeta. (2021). Bhartiya Chitrakala evam Murtikala ka Itihas. Rajasthan Hindi Granth Academy. 01 January. Country of origin – INDIA.
3. Photograph of Paintings – Pinterest, Google.