





Non-Western Art History

The Art of India 3

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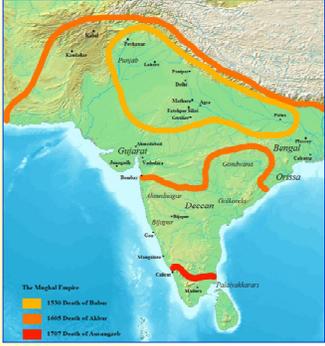
Art of India 3

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The Mughal Empire 1526 - 1707



The Mughal Empire
 1526 Death of Babur
 1605 Death of Akbar
 1707 Death of Aurangzeb

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End





◆ The Mughal Empire

- Established by Babur, a Muslim from Central Asia, in 1526 with the help of the rulers of Persia (modern Iran)
- Expanded by his grandson, Akbar (r. 1556-1605), who conquered northern and central India and laid the real foundation for the empire
- The Mughals, during most of their dominance, were known for strong central government and tolerance of all religions
- The Mughals grew very wealthy from trade with Europeans, the Ottoman Empire (Turks) and along the Silk Road
- The empire expanded into part of southern India under Aurangzeb (r. 1658-1707), but declined after 1707

Source: *The Art of the Mughals*, Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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End







Portrait of Akbar,
 by Manohar,
 16th century,
 Hermitage Museum

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Art of India 3

End







Akbar Hears a Petition,
 by Manohar, c. 1604,
 H: 10 inches, India,
 Freer & Sackler Galleries

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Art of India 3

End







Akbar Hears a Petition, by Manohar,
 c. 1604, H: 10 inches, India, Freer & Sackler Galleries

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End

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Basic Beliefs of Islam

- Monotheistic - a belief in only one God, Allah, who is omnipotent.
- The overall purpose of humanity is to serve Allah, to worship him alone and to construct a moral lifestyle
- The Koran or Qu'ran is the holy book of Islam, the written revelation from Allah to the prophet Muhammad in the 6th century.
- Muslims believe in a final judgment when individuals will be judged according to their deeds.
- Mosques are the main places of worship and also serve as social and political centers, sometimes with libraries, schools and hospitals.
- There are many sects of Muslims

Source: website: ThinkQuest.org

End

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Masjid-i Jahan-Numa (World Reflecting Mosque).
Commissioned by Shah Jahan, 1650, Delhi, India Web: Wikimedia

End

9 Art of India 3



Masjid-i Jahan-Numa and Courtyard (World Reflecting Mosque).
Commissioned by Shah Jahan, 1650, Delhi, India
Web: Wikimedia Photo 2008

End

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Jamia Masjid (Friday Mosque) Interior.
Unknown Mughal Architect, 1400, Srinagar, India Web: Wikimedia

End

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The Art of the Mughal Empire

- Akbar (r. 1556-1605) was the first Mughal (Muslim) patron of the arts and Persian, Muslim and Hindu artists in his royal workshops collaborated to develop the Mughal painting style
- Akbar commissioned numerous illustrated manuscripts that combined Persian, Indian and European elements
- Jahangir (r. 1605-1627) expanded patronage of the arts, promoted individual artists and encouraged careful plant and animal studies
- Shah Jahan (r. 1628 - 1658) is most celebrated for his architectural achievements, especially the Taj Mahal.
- Aurangzeb (r. 1658 - 1707) banned music and painting from his court, based on his strict Islamic beliefs.

Source: *The Art of the Mughals*, Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

End

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The Spy Zambur Brings Mahiya to Tawariq (Muslim).
Unknown Mughal Artist, c. 1570 (Akbar), H: 29 inches, Metropolitan Museum of Art

End



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The Spy Zambur Brings Mahiya to Tawariq (Muslim),
Unknown Mughal Artist,
c. 1570 (Akbar), H: 29 inches,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

End



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Art of India 3

Harivamsa (The Legend of Hari Krishna - Hindu),
Unknown Mughal Artist,
c. 1590-95 (Akbar), H: 11.5 inches,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

End

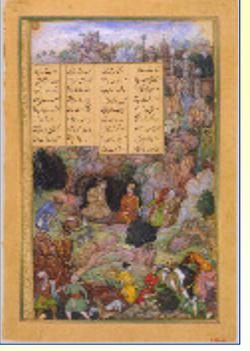


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Art of India 3

Harivamsa (The Legend of Hari Krishna - Hindu),
Unknown Mughal Artist,
c. 1590-95, H: 11.5 inches,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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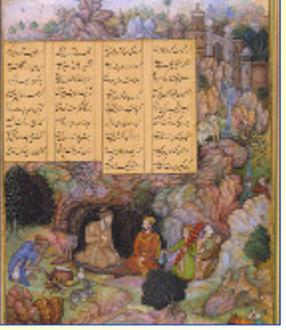


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Art of India 3

Alexander Visits the Sage Plato,
Attributed to Basawan,
c. 1597-98 (Akbar), H: 10 inches,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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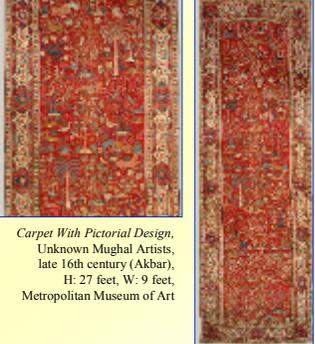


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Art of India 3

Alexander Visits the Sage Plato,
Attributed to Basawan,
c. 1597-98 (Akbar), H: 10 inches,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

End



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Art of India 3

Carpet With Pictorial Design,
Unknown Mughal Artists,
late 16th century (Akbar),
H: 27 feet, W: 9 feet,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

End



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End

Leaf from the Razmnama (Hindu),
Unknown Mughal Artist,
c. 1616-17 (Jahangir),
H: 15.5 inches,
Metropolitan Museum of Art



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Art of India 3

End

Leaf from the Razmnama (Hindu),
Unknown Mughal Artist,
c. 1616-17, H: 15.5 inches,
Metropolitan Museum of Art



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End

Drawing of a Female Figure,
Nar Singh, 1589-1604,
H: 3.5 inches, Mughal Dynasty,
Freer & Sackler Galleries



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End

Portrait of Shah Jahan on Horseback, Payag, 1628-58,
H: 15 inches, India,
Metropolitan Museum of Art



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End

The Taj Mahal, Architect: Shah Jahan, 1630-1653,
Agra, India, Wikimedia: Arnal Mongia, 2006

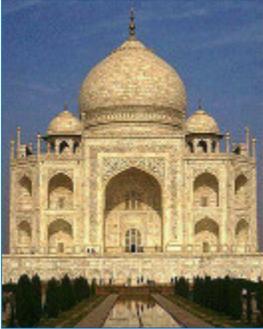


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End

The Taj Mahal, Architect: Shah Jahan, 1630-1653, Agra, India
Web: greatbuildings.com



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The Taj Mahal,
Architect: Shah Jahan,
1630-1653, Agra, India
www.greatbuildings.com

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End



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The Taj Mahal, Interior, Architect: Shah Jahan, 1630-1653,
Agra, India, Web: planetware.com

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End



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*The Emperor Aurangzeb at a
Royal Hunt,* Bhavanidas,
c. 1700, H: 23 inches,
Mughal, India,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of India 3

End



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The Emperor Aurangzeb at a Royal Hunt, Bhavanidas,
c. 1700, H: 23 inches, Mughal, India, Metropolitan Museum of Art

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End




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Huqqa Base,
Unknown Deccan Artist,
c. 1680, H: 7 inches, India,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of India 3

End



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Kalamkari Wall Hanging,
Unknown Mughal Artists,
c. 1640-50, H: 99 inches,
Mughal, India,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of India 3

End



Kalamkari Wall Hanging, Unknown Mughal Artists, c. 1640-50,
H: 99 inches, Mughal, India, Metropolitan Museum of Art

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◆ An International Comparison

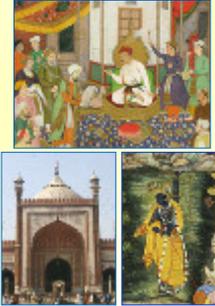
- The Mughal Empire (1526-1757) exhibited the beginnings of modern culture as it is currently defined:
 - Urbanization
 - Individualism
 - Objective approach to nature
- ◆ These phenomena were also present in:
 - Renaissance Florence (1400-1600)
 - Edo or Tokugawa Japan (1603-1868)
- ◆ However, modernity didn't last in India because there was no large middle class and the caste system discouraged upward mobility.

Source: *The Oxford History of Art: Indian Art*, by Partha Mitter, Oxford University Press, 2001

32 Art of India 3 End

◆ Mughal artists lived in a culture where:

- Politics: a strong central government was controlled by the Shah
- Politics: the Shah and his courtiers were great patron of the arts which flourished
- Religion: Muslim rulers governed a Hindu country but all religions could create artworks for their worship
- Religion: Buddhist temples were destroyed, but Hindu and Muslim temples were built



33 Cultural Context - Africa Art 244 End

◆ Mughal artists lived in a culture where:

- Economics: the Mughal Empire grew rich from trade with Europeans, Turks and countries along the Silk Road
- Economics: the Shah, courtiers, and wealthy merchants were all patrons of the arts
- Economics: Government officials commissioned artworks that they used as bribes for advancement.
- Economics: artists were highly skilled in painting, metalwork, stone and architecture.



34 Cultural Context - Africa Art 244 End

◆ Mughal artists lived in a culture where:

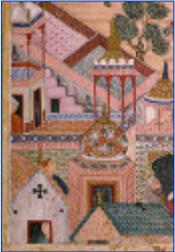
- Social Organization: artists were highly skilled craftsmen.
- Social Organization: Under Shah Jahingar individual artists were recognized and honored for their work.
- Social Organization: Guilds, workshops and individual artists were known by the aristocracy who were their patrons.



35 Cultural Context - Africa Art 244 End

◆ Mughal artists lived in a culture where:

- Artistic Influences: artists were employed by a royal patron and taught by a master artist in a workshop.
- Artistic Influences: artists from many cultures - Persian, Hindu and Muslim - worked collaboratively in the same workshops.
- Artistic Influences: many architecturally splendid monuments were built and enjoyed by everyone.



36 Cultural Context - Africa Art 244 End

37 Cultural Context - Africa Art 244

☛ Mughal artists lived in a culture where:

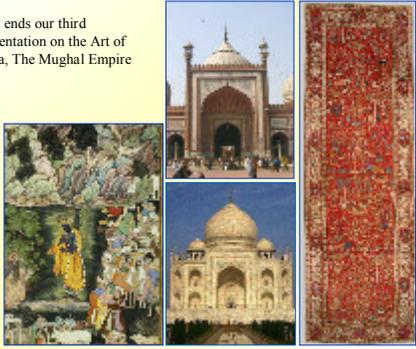
- International Influences: Persian (Iranian) artists worked and taught in Mughal India
- International Influences: European traders brought their artworks and artists to India where they were welcomed in the courts.
- International Influences: Trade along the Silk Road brought goods from China, the Ottoman Empire and Central Asia to Mughal markets.



End

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☛ This ends our third presentation on the Art of India, The Mughal Empire



End