

HISTORY

CHAPTER 10

THE CHANGING WORLD OF VISUAL ARTS



**Colonial rule introduced
several new art forms,
styles, materials and
techniques**

NEW FORMS OF IMPERIAL ART

- **From 18th century a stream of European artists came to India along with the British traders and rulers**
- **The artists brought with them new styles and new conventions of painting**
- **They began producing pictures which became widely popular in Europe and helped shape western perceptions of India**
- **European artists brought with them the idea of realism**
- **This was a belief that artists had to observe carefully and depict faithfully what the eye saw**
- **Oil painting enabled artists to produce images that looked real**

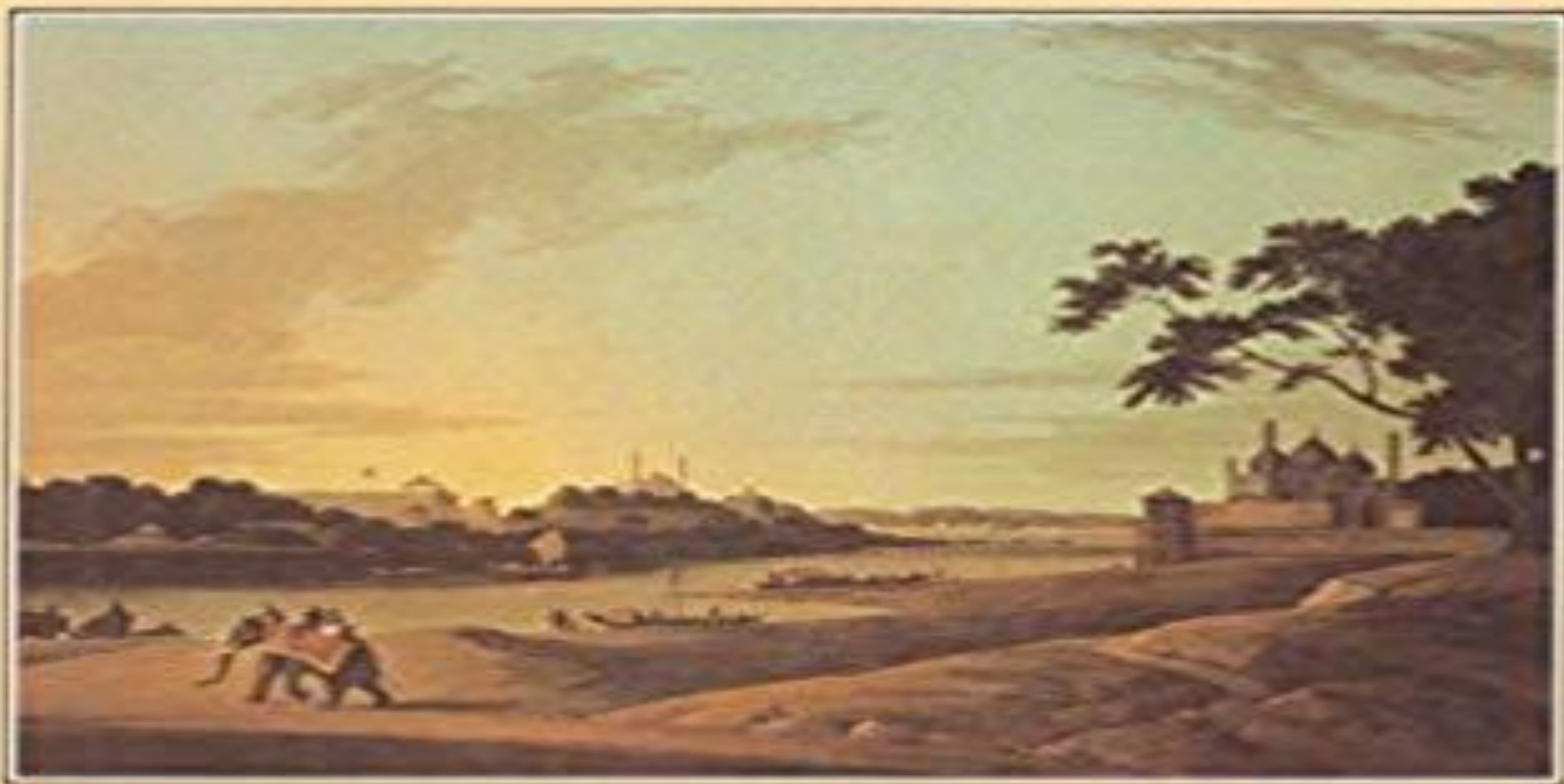


PICTURESQUE

- One popular imperial tradition was that of picturesque landscape painting
- This style of painting depicted India as a quaint land
- Thomas Daniell and William Daniell were the famous of the artists who painted within this tradition
- They produced some of the most evocative picturesque landscapes
- Their large oil paintings on canvas were regularly exhibited to select audiences in Britain, and their albums of engravings were eagerly bought by a British public

Picturesque India

*Sketches and Travels of
Thomas and William Daniell*



PORTRAITS AND PORTRAITURE

- **Another tradition of art that became immensely popular in colonial India was portrait painting**
- **The rich and powerful both British and Indian wanted to see themselves on canvas**
- **This new style of portraiture also served as an ideal means of displaying the lavish lifestyles, wealth and status that the empire generated**





PAINTING HISTORY

- **Third category of imperial art called history painting**
- **The tradition sought to dramatise and recreate various episodes of British imperial history**
- **British victories in India served as rich material for history painters in Britain**
- **Imperial history paintings sought to create a public memory of imperial triumphs**





MURAL PAINTINGS



A mural is any piece of artwork painted or applied directly on a wall, ceiling or other permanent surfaces. A distinguishing characteristic of mural painting is that the architectural elements of the given space are harmoniously incorporated into the picture.

THE NEW POPULAR INDIAN ART

SCROLL PAINTERS-PATUAS



Scroll painting of Kalighat



THE ART OF RAJA RAVI VARMA

- **Raja Ravi Varma was one of the first artists who tried to create a style that was both modern and national**
- **He mastered the Western art of oil painting and realistic life study, but painted themes from Indian mythology**
- **He dramatised on canvas scene after scene from Ramayana and the Mahabharata**
- **From 1880's, his mythological paintings became the rage among Indian princes and art collectors**



