

DRAWING AND PAINTING WITH DRY MEDIUM

In the previous lesson, we learnt about Fresco and Tempera in Indian art. In this lesson, we will learn about drawing and painting with a dry medium. Since humans learnt to draw a line on a rock, they have been searching for a medium which would aid in translating imagination into a visual work. Prehistoric cave paintings are examples of man's wish to document his environs as well as express his abstract wishes and desires. The hunting and grazing scenes, dancing figures, and armed men of the ancient rock paintings represent scenes from daily life. The coins, pots and jars, toys and figurines excavated at Harappa and Mohenjodaro indicate the artists' longing for aesthetic experience in day-to-day life. A man required some means to express this deep-rooted desire of his heart. Amongst these means, colours were of paramount importance. In this lesson, we will learn about dry media.

It is difficult to paint without colours, but colours were not always accessible. Charcoal has been a favourite medium of artists when it comes to drawing and shading. Charcoal has an intensity which is difficult to replicate with a pencil. Dry colours do away with the need for water to mix colours. Some popular dry colours are pastel colours, pencil colours, crayons and charcoal stick. The artist applies them directly on the surface to be worked upon.



OBJECTIVES

After studying the lesson, the learner will be able to:

- differentiate between pastel and pencil colours;
- learn about the different dry media used in painting;

- differentiate the differences between different media and their respective qualities;
- learn how to use simple and water-soluble pencils;
- learn the precautions to be taken while working with a charcoal stick;
- decorate their homes and surroundings with coloured powders easily available at home;
- describe the gradation of lead pencils.
- identify the works of a great master.

13.1 DRY COLOURS MEDIUM AVAILABLE AT HOME

Dear learner, first, you need to know about the dry medium used in painting.

Basic Information

Dry colours available at home are generally used for making designs to mark different festive occasions like weddings, a birthday, a birth in the family etc. It is an ancient tradition in India and one of the oldest art forms. Such as *mandana* in Rajasthan; *chaukpurna* in Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh; *alpana* in West Bengal; *aripana* in Bihar.

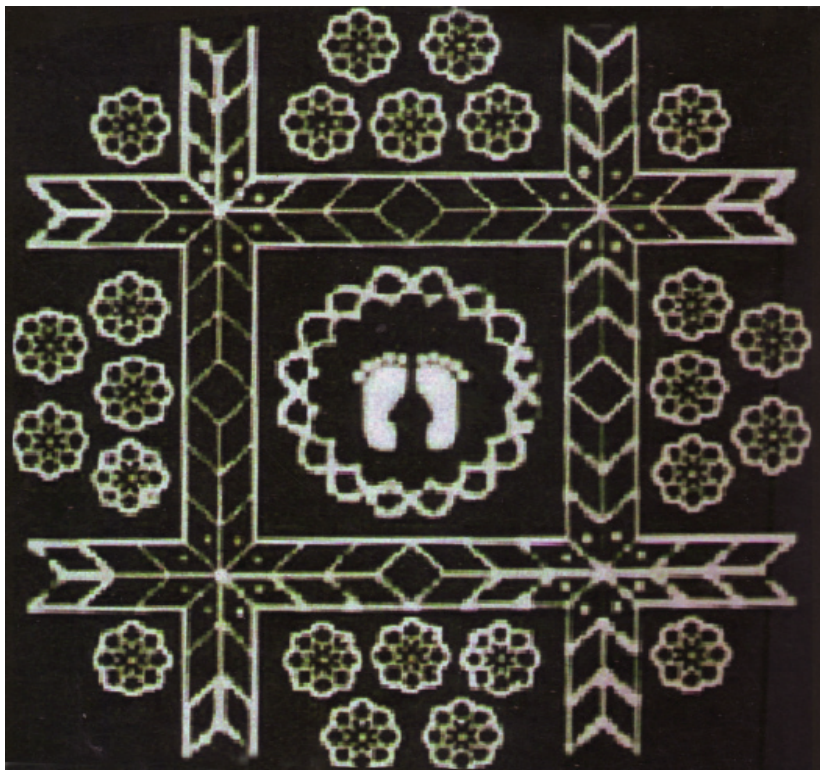


Fig. 13.1: Puja ka Chauk

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Generally practised by women and children, *Rangoli* is created using materials available at home. These include coloured rice, different coloured lentils, coloured flour, flower petals and leaves, turmeric powder (*haldi*), vermilion (*Sindoor*), naturally coloured sand, crushed gypsum (white), yellow ochre, red sandstone, charcoal, powdered roots and bark. *Gulal* or vibrantly coloured powders are easily available in the market and come in handy for creating beautiful designs. Dried flower petals and leaves are also favoured for making rangoli designs.

Title	: Puja ka Chauk
Materials	: Wheat or rice flour, turmeric powder, vermilion, <i>mehndi/henna</i> powder
State of origin	: Uttar Pradesh
Artist	: Unknown
Period	: Contemporary

General Description

The floor is cleaned thoroughly. The outline is drawn of a square with *mehandi/henna* powder. The outline is followed with a thin layer of *mehandi/henna* powder. Two horizontal and two vertical lines are placed with wheat or rice flour on the green ground. There is a square with nine sections. In the center of the ground, make a sign of Goddess legs (*Lakshmi charan*) using vermilion. Around it, the decorative circular border with turmeric powder is made of outlines of flowers in the outer sections with turmeric are drawn and filled the outlines with vermilion and rice powder.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 13.1

Fill in the blanks:

1. Puja Ka Chauk made with dry colours available at home by
2. Two horizontal and two lines are placed with rice flour on the green
3. Dry colour mixed with

13.2 PENCIL

Dear learner, you know that pencil is a popular medium of artists let us know more about the medium.

Basic Information

A pencil is a writing implement and also an art medium. It has been instrumental in taking art and literature to the masses. The word pencil is derived from the Latin word “Pencilus” which means a small brush. German Renaissance painter

Albrecht Durer (1471-1528) worked in silverpoint and charcoal throughout his career, but as these media required special surfaces to work upon, they gained popularity only a short time. In 1560, taking inspiration from the burnt roots of a tree uprooted during a hurricane, Graphite invented the first pencil. The search for a better, more convenient pencil led to the introduction of the first graphite pencil in 1662. In 1761, Faber established the eponymous pencil manufacturing company. Nicolas-Jacques Conte of France first patented the graphite pencil made of powdered graphite and clay in 1795. The pencil continues to evolve, and to date, remains a means of imparting shade and texture to work. Pencils across the world are graded on the European system using a continuum from “H” (hardness, contains more clay, less graphite) to “B” (blackness, contains more graphite, less clay). The standard drawing pencil is graded. **HB** Pencils are available in various hardnesses (H to 9H) and blacknesses (B to 9B). Coloured and water-soluble pencils are also available in the market. Depending on his convenience and need, the artist uses different-grade pencils to impart shade to work. Generally, 4B and 6B pencils are favoured for shading work.

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Fig. 13.2: Portrait of Dora Maar

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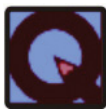
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Title	:	Portrait of Dora Maar
Media	:	Coloured Pencil
Period	:	1937 CE
Artist	:	Pablo Picasso
Collection	:	Musee Picasso, Paris

General Description

This is one of a series of portraits of Picasso's muse and lover Dora Maar in pencil colours. Picasso was a Spanish painter famous for his Cubist works and known as the father of Cubism. Cubism came into existence in 1907 and is considered the most influential art movement of the 20th century. In Cubism, instead of depicting objects from one viewpoint, the artist depicts the subject from a multitude of viewpoints to represent the subject in a greater context - objects are analyzed, broken up and reassembled in an abstract form. Pablo Picasso's works show all the characteristics of Cubism.

Dora Maar was a photographer, poet and intellectual in her own right. In this portrait, Picasso experiments with a striking off-set profile in disjunctive, impossible combination with a frontal view- the nose becomes an extension to the face on which the "far" eye is seen looking straight at the beholder. Picasso exploited Cubism to represent the essence of the sophisticated, temperamental Maar- the fingernails painted with red polish, the long, graceful hands, the pose, the black hair, the large, dark and staring eyes, the round, wilful chin. The face is given volume by a play of colours and lighting. The expression is pleasant but distant; the eyes sparkle with life and intelligence.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 13.2

Match the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Pablo Picasso | (i) Cubist work |
| 2. Picasso painting | (ii) Coloured pencil |
| 3. Medium of portrait | (iii) Spanish painter |

13.3 CHARCOAL

Charcoal is a favourite medium of artists. You will get to know about the medium.

Basic Information

Charcoal sticks are usually produced by slowly heating wood or other substances in the absence of oxygen. This ancient medium is light, brittle and uniformly black.

One needs to be very careful while working with a charcoal stick. Being brittle, it tends to leave dusty residue on the surface, which could deface the drawing. To avoid this situation, keep your hand a little above the surface. Once the painting is finished, treat it with a colour fixer and cover it with tracing paper. Earlier made by burning sticks or vines in a kiln, charcoal sticks are now available in convenient and non-messy formats. They are now made of finely ground organic materials bound together by gum or wax. Charcoal pencils are thin sticks of charcoal wrapped within a layer of wood. However, high-grade charcoal sticks are still made the old-fashioned way by burning bamboo sticks in a kiln without air. Charcoal is the favoured medium for ‘on-the-spot’ sketching and even portraits. Moreover, it gives great results on grainy textured paper and canvas.

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Fig. 13.3: Girl with Goat

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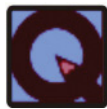
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Title	:	Girl with Goat
Media	:	Charcoal on pastel board
Period	:	Circa 2007
Size	:	24' × 20'
Artist	:	Paritosh Sen

General Information

Leading modern Indian painter Paritosh Sen executed this work in 2007. Done on a brown pastel board in charcoal, it shows a girl holding her pet kid in her arms. She looks a little startled; the irises in her large eyes are visible. The band is just above her hairline, and the two nose pins on both sides of her nose hint at her indigenous origin. Her thick and curly hair frames her shapely face almost like a cloud. Economic, skillful strokes create an illusion of voluptuousness. The girl and the kid are at ease with each other. The artist has tried to evoke the beauty of nature through the girl: her face and eyes are shaped like leaves, her nose is shaped like a young lotus bud, her arms are like shapely trunks and the hands are like blossoming buds. The sense of security is evident in the kid's eyes too. Charcoal stick, pastel board, canvas, tracing paper, soft white rags to wipe hands are used by the artist.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 13.3

1. Which woods are used for making high-quality charcoal?
2. What are the precautions to be taken while working in charcoal?
3. How has Paritosh Sen tried to depict the girl?



ACTIVITY

Collect different dry mediums used in painting. Draw a beautiful composition on 1/4-sized paper with the dry medium. Maintain the colour balance in your artwork.



13.4 PASTEL

Now, you will learn another dry medium pastel.

Basic Information

The name “pastel” comes from the Latin word *pastellus*, which means paste. A pastel stick is shaped like a chalk stick and is wrapped in paper. There are several brands of pastel colours available in the market today. They are made by mixing finely milled pure powdered pigment with a small quantity of glue, wax, or oil. Pastel colours give the effect of dry colours and have a subdued effect, but do not crack or discolour. The pastel medium is a comparatively new technique. It gained popularity only in the 18th century when a number of notable French artists made pastel their primary medium.



Notes



Fig. 13.4: Race Course

Pastel techniques are challenging since the medium is mixed and blended directly on the working surface. Unlike other media, pastel errors cannot be covered or erased away. Pastels have some techniques in common with painting, such as

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blending, scratching, special shade, tinting and shading. 'From light to dark' is the general rule in pastel, but lighter shades are applied over darker shades to create an effect of intense light. Working in pastels requires patience and practice. Pastels are sometimes applied to textured or tinted surfaces for greater effect. The artist must balance cold and bright tones in his work. Ordinary board or any oil-based paper, pastels in varying softness, colour fixer, painting knives, and tracing paper are the basic materials required.

Title	:	Race Course
Media	:	Oil pastels
Period	:	circa 1895
Artist	:	Edgar Degas

General Description

In this work, Degas has put his academic training to good use. He has created a scene which is a fair mix of landscape and figures in the movement. This is a sunny scene. The sky is highlighted by a touch of gold; the hillocks are dusted with pinks, greens and browns. The use of various greens on the ground underscores the texture of the land. The different colours and drapes of the rider's attire show the artist's grasp on his medium and subject.

Degas was a master of both nature study as well as life study. In this scene at the race course, Degas used orange and golden yellow shades to show sunlight on the hillocks. Deft use of greens and browns brings the ground to life. Since pastel colours are opaque, the artist has used the knife to create an impression of lush grass.

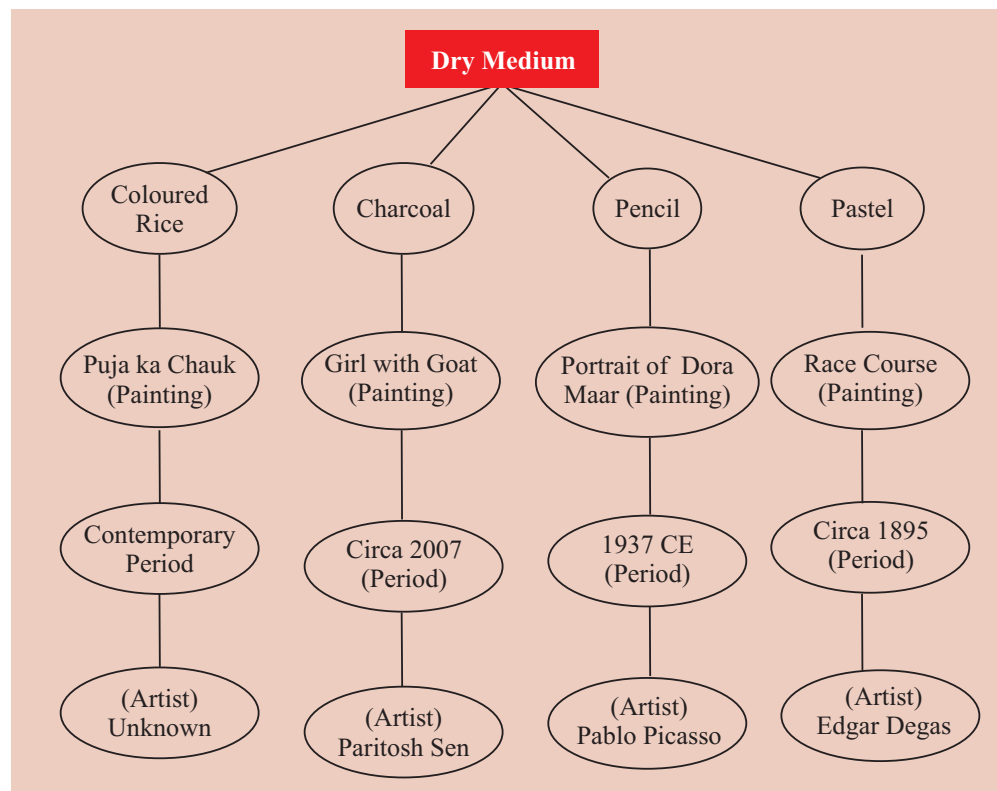


INTEXT QUESTIONS 13.4

1. What is special about the attire of the riders in the 'Race Course' painting?
2. What is the effect of pastel colours in 'Race Course'?
3. As an artist, what was Degas's speciality?



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT



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LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learner can

- apply the dry medium in their own drawing and painting;
- use dry colours to decorate their floor of houses at festival.



TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Which woods are used for making high-quality charcoal?
2. What are the precautions to be taken while working in charcoal?
3. Write a note about the charcoal stick.
4. What does the girl's posture in the portrait of Dora Maar painting suggest?
5. What does the kid's posture in Girl with goat painting suggest?
6. Who was 'Dora Maar'?
7. What is the medium of 'Portrait Dora Maar'?

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- Who was Pablo Picasso?
- What characterized a Picasso painting?
- What is Cubism?
- Write five sentences about a charcoal stick.
- What does the kid's posture suggest in the painting 'Girl with Goat'?



ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

13.1

- women
- vertical, ground
- rice flour

13.2

- Dora Maar was Picasso's muse and lover. She was a photographer and an intellectual in her own right.
- Pablo Picasso was a Spanish painter.
- His speciality was his Cubist works.

13.3

- Grapevine and bamboo are the woods used for making high-quality charcoal.
- Charcoal leaves a dusty residue on the work surface, which can ruin the work. To avoid smudging, the artist must keep his hand a little above the work surface and fix the work with a colour fixer once it is complete.
- Paritosh Sen has used the leaf motif in this painting.

13.4

- The painter has shown the riders wearing different coloured attire.
- Pastel colours give the effect of dry colours and have a subdued effect, but do not crack or discolour.
- Degas was a master of both nature study and object study.

GLOSSARY

Graphite	black lead
Muse	inspiration
Abrasive	something used for rubbing