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COMPOSITION

Any composition is an expression of emotions and feelings of the artist emerging out of the inner most layer of the heart. Such feelings are expressed through colour, lines, shape etc. They all are employed in such a manner that an expressive composition is created. In such compositions everything needs to be in proper balance, rhythm and harmony. The composition becomes imbalanced if any of these essential elements is dropped. This necessitates harmonic communion of all shapes. Composition, therefore, means the appropriate use of essential elements in the process of painting.



OBJECTIVES

After studying and practicing this lesson the learner will be able to:

- i) learn to place 2-3 or more than these objects on one piece of paper in systematic manner;
- ii) create different shapes effectively in producing a composition;
- iii) show light and shade effectively with pencil;
- iv) sketch based on the imagination, outline for the composition;
- v) select the subject for painting effectively; and
- vi) use the colours appropriately in painting.

Geometrical Forms of Composition

The composition in which geometrical figures have been used is called Geometrical composition. Take a simple plain paper to make a composition. Cut it in the shape of 10"x10" or 10"x15" or use your own imagination to draw a shape with pencil



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and scale, on the paper, in agreement with the concept of imagination. Inside this picture, draw shapes in the form of circles, rectangles and triangular. Later on fill in the colours to make a composition. You may also use black or dark coloured papers cut in different shapes and decorate them on the paper you want to make a composition. This will facilitate you to know basics of composition and you will be able to make a composition easily.

Remember, the composition should be harmonious and balanced irrespective of the medium you use. It may be water colour or poster colours (see fig. nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4).



Fig. no. 1



Fig. no. 2



Fig. no. 3



Fig. no. 4



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Conceptual composition

Such a composition is based on the student's imaginative power. The imagination is rooted in the worldwide experiences of life.

It is important to decide the subject matter before the composition is initiated.

It all depends on the student's choice of the subject matter. It may vary from fisherman, road side dhaba, fair, rain, railway station to bus stop. Firstly, draw 4-5 composition based on your choicest subject. Later, enlarge one of the best composition you have made either on the paper or any other material.

Composition may be vertical or horizontal. It depends on the artist's choice. It is important to note that all components used in the composition are related to each other. It is also important to note that withdrawal of any component would affect the entire composition. Every composition has a central focal point. It should be an obvious point in the entire composition. Every good composition has balance, harmony and rhythm. See Fig. No. 5 and 6. Two birds are composed on a tree branch with harmony and balance. After line drawings, the composition is coloured. Such a combination would make the composition attractive and complete.



Fig. no. 5



Fig. no. 6

Composition with Object

Following component are used for a composition:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Jug | 8. flower vase |
| 2. Cup-plate | 8. Vegetables |
| 3. Bread | 10. Stove |
| 4. Egg | 11. Bucket |
| 5. Knife | 12. Pan |
| 6. Fruit | 13. Basket |
| 7. Book | 14. Bottle |



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**Fig. no. 7**

Select a few of these and set on an even platform. Hang a curtain in the background. Choose the items according to the choice of the object. It is presumed that the student is wise enough to decide the size of the object. Firstly, draw one or two object with pencil and show light and shade. (See Fig. No. 7). Use of colour should follow it. Balance, harmony and rhythm are essential for composition. (See Fig. No. 8). You can select some vigitables and arrange on a table with a coloured cloth in the back ground. Draw and colour it (see Fig. No. 9).



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Fig. no. 8

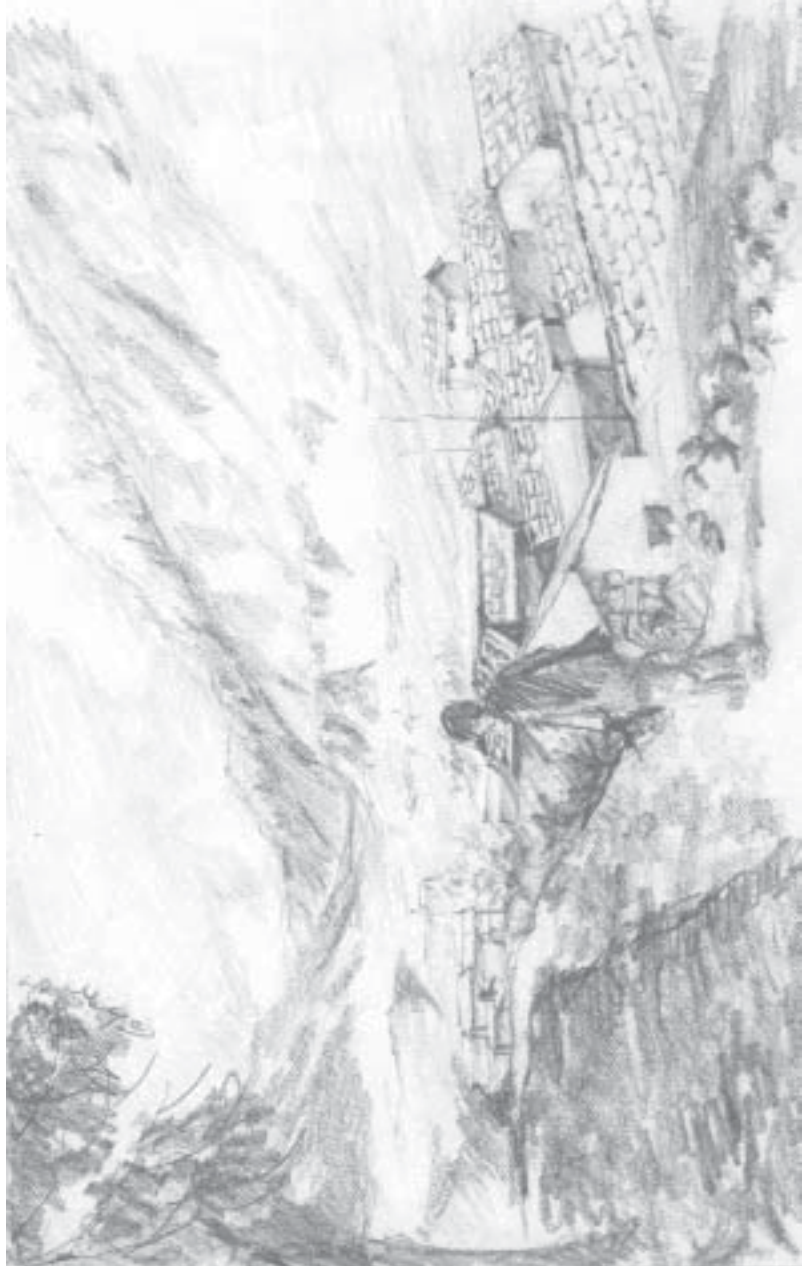


Fig. no. 9

**Notes****Composition Based on Nature**

One can use villages, cities, mountains, rivers and canals to draw nature based composition. Normally horizontal scene is used in nature based composition.

For example : choose any scene. Anything and every thing seen in nature can be used for composition, Focal point is a must component in composition. See fig. no. 10. Before colours are used in the composition, it is suggested that the composition be made with a pencil. Mark the space of light and shade with pencil. The viewer can have clear picture (idea) of light and shade in the composition.

**Fig. no. 10**

Now colours can be used in the composition. Decide and mark the spaces for high, medium and low tone of colours. Balance of colours is essential. Harmony and rhythm are the signs of good composition. See Fig. No. 11.



Fig. no. 11

Decorative Form of Composition

Draw sketches of natural objects such as flowers, leaves, trees, creepers, birds, bees, butterflies, squirrels etc. Give different shapes and designs to these sketches and compose them with several ornamental shapes. That would look different from any other composition. A good composition has balance, rhythm and harmony. Use of colours should also be harmonious. See the figure 12, 13, 14 and 15.



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Fig. no. 12



Fig. no. 13



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Fig. no. 14



Fig. no. 15



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Necessary items for composition

For picture composition a student should have the following items:

1. Drawing board, 2. Thick cardboard, 3. White drawing sheet, 4. Chartridge paper, 5. Board pins, 6. Pencil HB, 2B, 4B, 6B, 7. eraser, 8. cutters, 9. brush, 10. colour palette, and 11. mug etc.

Use of colours in composition

In Water-colour technique, begin with-light colour and then use dark tones. Apply out-two layers of light colours and then apply medium and dark colours. This will make the colours evident. Shadow can also be shown in this type of colour combination (see fig. no. 16).



Fig. no. 16

Summary

Composition means assembly of all essential components and their use. In object drawing, exact picturisation of the object is essential. All components should be arranged in such a manner that object drawing is possible. While composition are based on the artists imagination, he can use his own composition and also use colours of his choice. While composing nature, one has to compose what he sees in the company of the nature. We might add or delete some of the scenes/objects.

But this demands vast experience and exposure. Scene-composition demands appropriate use of colours.

In decorative form of composition we draw pictures/figures as we like and use colours as per our choice. Composition should have balanced colours for a perfect composition.

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. Draw a sketch of jug, cup, plate, flower vase and make a composition of all these.
2. Compose geometrical form with black and white papers in circular, triangular rectangular shapes.
3. Based on your imagination, make a composition of any subject.
4. Paint a landscape showing the beauty of nature.
5. Sketch Flowers, leaves, squirrel, butterflies and compose a design.
6. Use colour on the drawing given below.



Fig. no. 17



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GLOSSARY

Harmonic Communion – Communicated with harmony

Vertical – Standing position

Horizontal – Reclining position

Withdrawal – Taken off

Presume – Imagined

Ornamental – Decorative



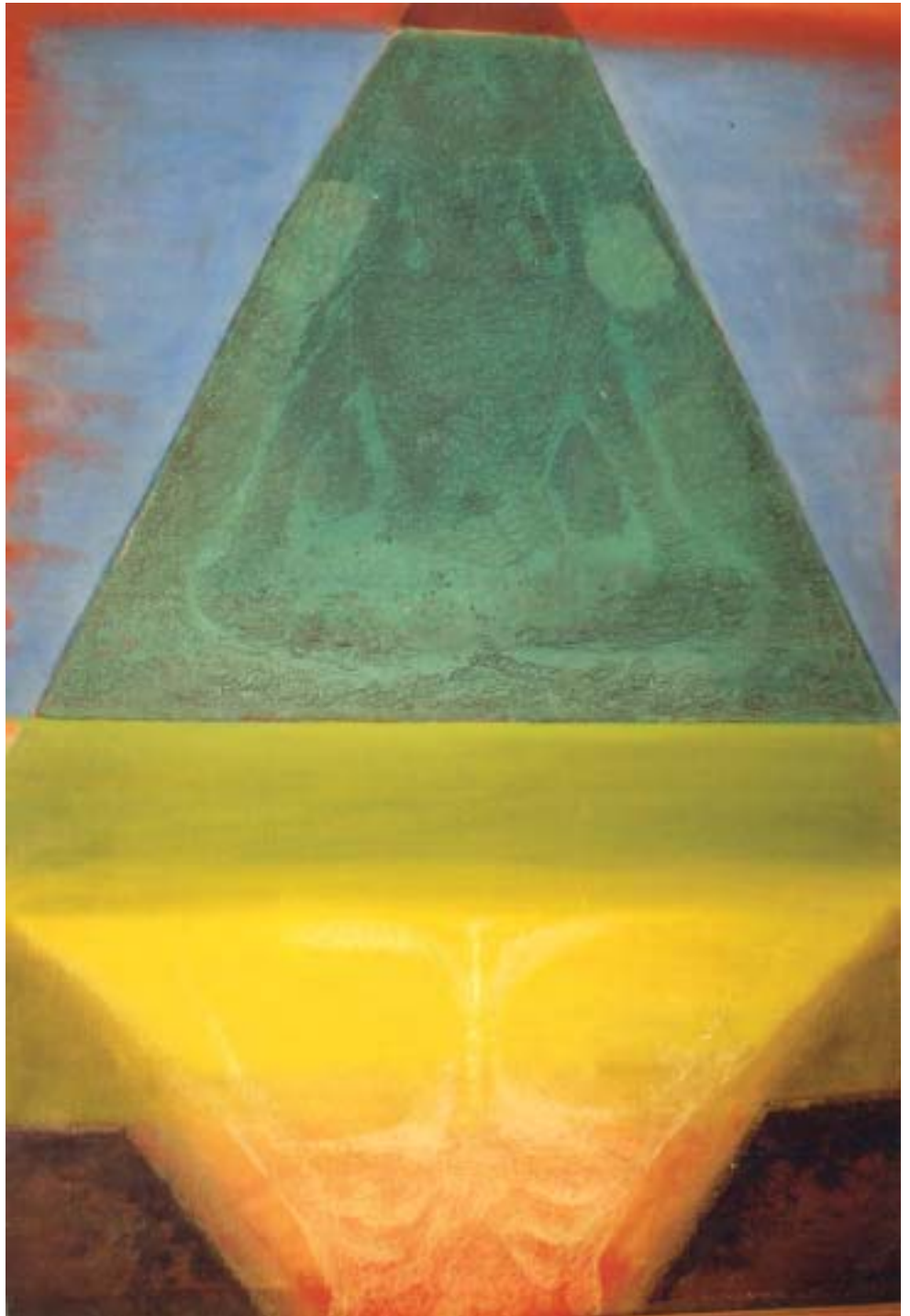
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END OF JOURNEY
By Abanindranath Tagore
(Wash Painting)



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RAVANANU GRAHAMURTI
(Oil)