

Orissa School



The Orissa school of painting created a series of illustrations from *Gita Govindam* in circa 1800 A.D, which shows two mythological lovers, *Radha* and *Krishna* with trees in the background. This particular feature highlighted the indigenous form of this school of painting.

Basholi School



Basholi was among the earliest centres of *Pahari* painting. The style of these paintings was bold, imaginative and unconventional. The specific characteristics included vigorous use of primary colours and peculiar facial features.

Kangra School

Named after the region of *Kangra* in Himachal Pradesh, the style depicted vast green foliage in multiple shades, and a great attention was paid to detail in these paintings. It featured rich foliage, water bodies, well-modelled facial features. The artists of *Kangra* school of painting learnt the use of shading and adopted fresher and delicate hues for painting pictures



Activities carried out by IGNCA on '*Gita Govinda*'.

- Release of Multi -media production by CIL Division in May 27, 2015.
- Exhibition by Kaladarsana Division from August 23 to 30, 2019.
- Detailed translation of the original work into Hindi by Dr ND Sharma, former HoD, Kalakosa Division of IGNCA in progress.



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Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

presents

Gita Govinda

An Exhibition of Paintings and Prints



Introduction

The love, the colours, the joy, the beauty, all submerged into one, forms an image of Divine Krishna. For most Indians, Lord Krishna and Radha is one of the most popular deity couple with whom they find instant connect and attachment.

The exhibition addresses 'Gita Govinda' of Jayadeva, the most influential and celebrated Sanskrit poem of 12th century. The poem is based on the romance of Lord Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu, and his mortal beloved Radha, highlighting the varied emotions related to anguish in separation and the bliss of togetherness as a divine couple.

The theme of 'Gita Govinda' has found multiple expressions in various Indian styles of paintings. Each of these schools emerged differently at different periods, regions and a patron. The major styles of paintings represented in this exhibition are Pichhwai, Bundi School, Mewar School, Amber-Jaipur, Jaur School, Orissa School, Basholi School, Kangra School which mostly cover the period between Eighteenth to Nineteenth Century.

Pichhwai

Pichhwais are large devotional Hindu paintings prepared on cloth, specially dedicated to Lord Krishna and his Leela. The art emerged in the town of Nathdwara, Udaipur, Rajasthan around 400 years ago to narrate the stories of Lord Krishna to the layman. The common features of these paintings are portrayal of Lord Krishna as Shrinathji, use of cow, peacock and floral motifs.



Bundi School

Bundi school beautifully blended Mughal and Deccan style of painting in its art forms. The paintings had distinctive characteristics which included dense forests, flowing rivers, lush-green fields, delightful gardens with beds of flowers and fountains which eventually became significant of this school. Use of elephant figurines was also very common in these paintings.



Mewar School

The Mewar school is considered among the most significant school from Rajasthan style of miniature painting. It is very well-known for its 'Ragamala' paintings. The unique features of this school included the use of bright orange, green, red, yellow and blue hues; elongated noses and oval shaped faces of figurines; loose fitted garments of male figures and transparent odhnis of female forms; dense floral forms and landscape in Persian styles.



Amber-Jaipur School



Little is known about the school until the opening years of the eighteenth century. It has been the most popular of all schools of paintings from Rajasthan and did not have any distinguished characteristics but was highly affected by western influences. Some of the large paintings from this school include sports of Lord Krishna.

Jaur School

Not much evidence is available to prove the existence of Jaur School of Painting. A manuscript known as 'Jaur Gita Govinda' was produced in the sixteenth century. It includes illustrations of Radha - Krishna Leela. The use of long extended eyes; well-defined figures; ornaments and chequered designs of female garments and the use of space were the distinctive characteristics of these paintings.

