

Rajasthani Painting Coloring Page

Inspired by Indian Artists

Indian miniature paintings are narrative and often depict the deeds of Muslim and Hindu rulers and legendary deeds of mythological heroes and deities. When Mughal forces conquered the Deccan (a large plateau in southern India) in the late 17th century, Hindu noblemen in the Mughal army brought Rajasthani painting traditions to the region. The styles of painting which developed in the Deccan were strongly influenced by elements of Mughal painting and direct contact with the Middle East and Europe through sea trade.

The subject of women socializing and the general style of flat colors and people drawn in profile clearly reveal northern influences, while certain details like the shading on the tree branches are Deccani innovations learned from other sources.

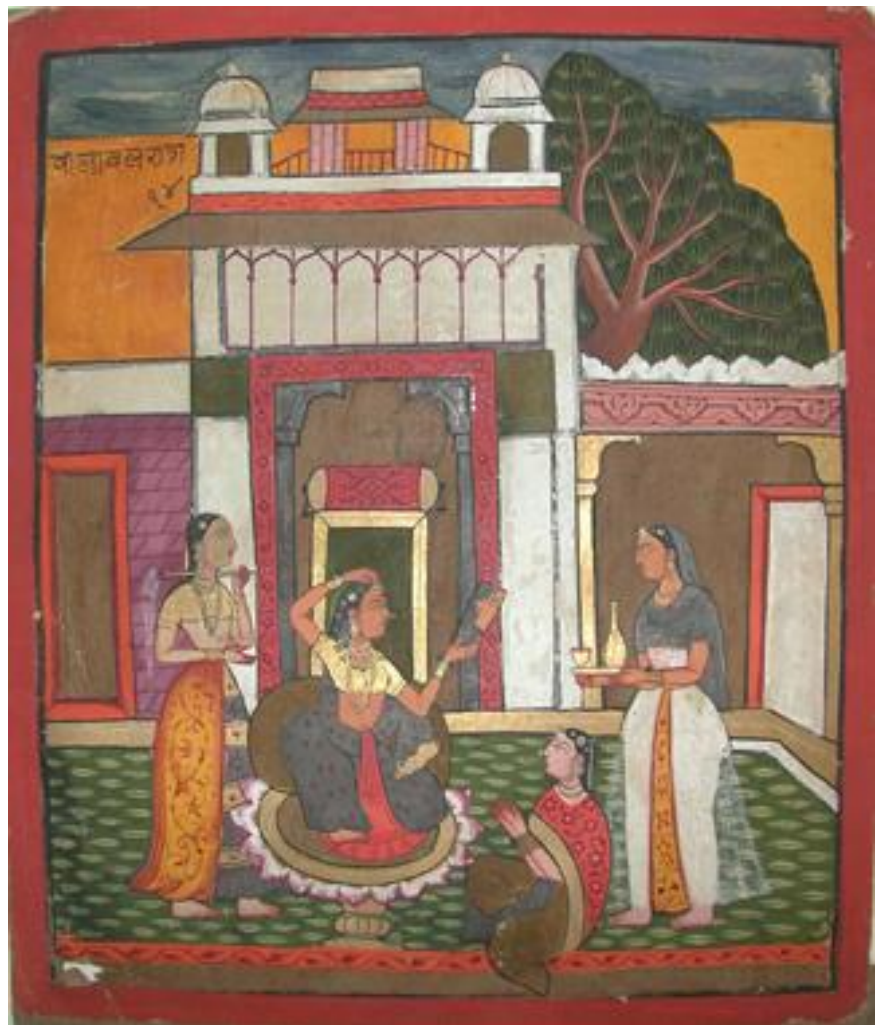
How were miniature paintings created?

Indian artists worked in groups, with individual specialists working on the background, foliage, architecture, animals and figures. Multiple layers of a single color were built up to create an intense, saturated effect. To achieve a jewel-like finish, the paper was burnished at regular intervals by rubbing the back with a large, flat stone. Gold and silver were usually the last elements added to the painting, along with a border. Paintings were generally stored in stacks and then wrapped in protective coverings.



Did you know, mussel shells have long served as mixing bowls for manuscript painters?

Image courtesy of Saudi Aramco World.



Indian, Deccan
Vilaval Raga: Women Looking into a Mirror
Early 20th Century
Gouache on paper
9 1/4 x 8 in. (23.5 x 20.3 cm)