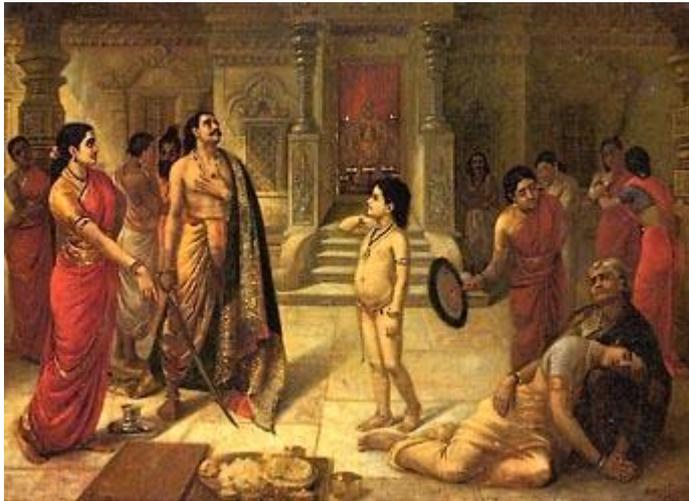


Achievements of Raja Ravi Varma



The name of Raja Ravi Varma is listed amongst the most illustrious painters Indian Arts ever had. He holds the credit to bring the attention of bigger sphere to Indian painting. The contemporary art and traditional Indian art received a significant connection through efforts of Raja Ravi Varma. Achievements of Raja Ravi Varma prove him as a distinguished painter in Indian Art history. He illustrated scenes from the Mahabharata and Ramayana. Also, depiction of Hindu Goddesses is seen in his works who were illustrated on women of South India.

Early Life

Raja Ravi Varma was born as Ravi Varma in Kilimanoor, 25 miles from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 29th April, 1848. Maharajah Ayilyam Thirunal of Travancore gave him patronage while this artist was young.

Education and Career of Raja Ravi Verma

Raja Ravi Varma was trained systematically. He turned an expert of the customary art of Thanjavoor and of the European art as well. He stands with those few artists who succeeded in attaining a striking accord between traditions of India with European academic art techniques. Some of his artworks include Arjuna and Subhadra, Lady Lost in Thought, Nair Women, Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Romancing Couple, A Family of Beggars, Shakuntala and The Heartbroken.

Style of Raja Ravi Verma

Paintings of Raja Ravi Varma can be categorized into three categories: Portraits, Portrait-based Compositions and Theatrical Compositions having myths and legends as foundation. Mostly, he portrayed gorgeous sari clad women in a svelte manner. Raja Ravi Varma is most remembered for his paintings of gorgeous sari clad women, who were portrayed as very shapely and graceful. He is considered as modern among traditionalists and a rationalist among moderns. He traveled throughout India in search of subjects. He stayed in Bombay for some years and many works depicting a beautiful Maharashtrian woman came into existence.

The artist is particularly celebrated for his works that illustrated incidences from the stories of Nala and Damayanti and Dushyanta and Shakuntala. He has represented mythological characters in a way that has turned a part of epics' imagination the Indian way. Powerful expression and dynamism of European paintings fascinated this artist. If you want to see ultimate examples of amalgamation of Indian traditions and European academic art techniques, watch works of Raja Ravi Varma.

Awards and Accolades

The Madras Painting Exhibition bestowed the first prize upon Raja Ravi Varma in 1873. His painting exhibition fetched an award in 1873 again at Vienna. In 1893 his artworks were sent to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. These artworks brought him two gold medals. The Government of Kerala has introduced an award- 'Raja Ravi Varma Puraskaram' because of his great role in Indian art. Artists who prove their excellence in sphere of art, this award is given annually. Viceroy Lord Curzon bequeathed upon Raja Ravi Varma the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal in 1904. For the first time, his name was mentioned as 'Raja Ravi Varma' during this period. At Mavelikara, Kerala a college of Fine Arts was established to celebrate his merit in art. Kerala brims with several cultural organizations in his name.

Achievements of Raja Ravi Varma gained him immense popularity in India. Many paintings by this artist are kept at Laxmi Vilas Palace, Vadodara. His fame didn't remain confined to art world but has knocked the doors of movies. A movie 'Rang Rasiya' came up in 2008 featuring this artist's life which was directed by Ketan Mehta. A Malayalam movie- 'Makaramanju' (2010) narrates a certain period of his life. He left the earth for an eternal life in 1906 but he is still alive with his works and movies focusing him.