



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
SENIOR SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS



CLASS: IX
PAINTING (049)
WORKSHEET No. 3

THEORY Unit – II – (b) METHODS AND MATERIALS OF PAINTING

Mediums of Painting – An Introduction

"Art Medium" refers to the art materials or artist supplies used to create a work of art. Basically, it's whatever you use to make a mark upon a surface.

We have seen that colour is a property possessed by an object of producing different sensations on the eye as a result of which it reflects or emits light. Colour comes from light; if there was no light, we would have no colour. A light ray is composed of seven rays of colours namely violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red (VIBGYOR). When the light ray hits an object, it is reflected by the object and makes an image on the retina of our eyes. Thus, we can see an object. For example, a red object appears red because it absorbs all other colours except the red colour which is reflected back.

Another important factor on which the colour of any object depends is its pigment. In living organisms, pigment is a substance that produces colour. In animals, pigment is a natural substance that produces colour of the skin and hair. In plants, pigment is a natural substance that produces colour of leaves, flowers and stem. Pigment is also the substance in a paint or dye that gives it its colour.

What is painting?

Painting is the practice of applying paint or pigment to a solid surface. The medium is commonly applied to the base with a brush, but other implements such as knives, sponges and airbrushes can also be used. In art, the term painting refers to both the act and the result of the action. The base support for painting includes surfaces such as wall, paper, canvas, wood, glass and pottery, leaf, copper and concrete.

In general, any medium of colouring and painting is made up of pigment and binder. Pigment is a material that changes the colour of reflected or transmitted light as the result of wavelength-selective absorption of light. Pigment is the substance in a paint or dye that gives its colour. Binder is a substance that holds the particles of pigment together in paint. The materials of painting are categorized based on the type of pigments and binders used in them.



Powdered pigments

Dry and wet media

The materials that do not contain any liquid such as oil or water are called dry media. Further, dry media do not require any kind of liquid in their application on the surface. Pencil, charcoal, chalk, pastels, wax crayons etc. are some of the dry media.

Wet media refers to the materials which contain liquid such as oil water etc. in them. Further, the materials use any liquid such as water, oil etc. in their application are called wet media. Watercolours, poster colours, oil colours, acrylic colours, gouache colours etc. are some of the wet media in painting.

Pencil

A pencil is an implement for writing or drawing which is constructed of a narrow pigment core in a protective casing (covering). Most pencil cores are made of graphite powder mixed with a clay binder. The most common pencil casing is thin wood, usually hexagonal in section and permanently bonded to the core. However, sometimes the pencil casing is cylindrical or triangular. To use the pencil, the casing must be carved or peeled off to expose the working end of the core as a sharp point. Graphite pencils (traditionally known as lead pencils) produce grey or black marks which can be easily erased.

The word pencil is derived from a Latin word “penicillus” which means “small tail”.

Initially pencil cores were made of graphite tin. The word “graphine” stands for writing.

Types of pencils

The pencil in everyday use is known as HB pencil in which H stands for hardness and B stands for blackness. The pencils have been numbered according to the proportion of these qualities. The increase in the hardness and blackness is indicated with ascending numbers. For example H, 2H, 3H, 4H, 5H and 6H have increasing quality of hardness and lightness. Similarly 2B, 4B, 6B and 8B have increasing amount of blackness and softness.

Clutch Pencils

A clutch pencil is a pencil with a replaceable and mechanically extendable solid core pigment core called a “lead”. The lead is often made of graphite which is not bonded to the outer casing (covering) and can be mechanically extended. Leads are available in various breadths and varieties such as 0.5, 0.6 and 0.7.



A clutch pencil

Colour Pencils

Colour pencils have wax- like cores with colour pigment and other fillers. Multiple colours are often blended together.



Colour Pencils

Watercolour Pencils

Watercolour pencils are designed for use with watercolour techniques. The pencils can be used by themselves for sharp, bold lines. Strokes made by the pencil can be saturated with water and spread with brushes for the effect of watercolour.



Strokes of watercolour pencils softened by applying water with brushes.

Charcoal

Artist's charcoal is a form of dry art medium made of finely grinded organic materials (organic means relating to or derived from living matter) which are held together by a gum or wax binder. The charcoal can also be produced without the use of binders by eliminating oxygen during the burning. For example, vine charcoal and willow charcoal are produced by burning grape vines and willow sticks in a furnace without air. Charcoal pencils consist of compressed charcoal in a jacket of wood. Charcoal pencils are designed to be similar to graphite pencils while maintaining most of the properties of charcoal.



Vine Charcoal sticks used for drawing purposes



Willow Charcoal sticks used for drawing purposes



Compressed charcoal sticks used for drawing purposes



Charcoal sticks used for drawing purposes

In general, charcoal is very useful in drawing the design on large canvases. It is very easy to wipe the lines away by just dusting without damaging the paper, canvas or the drawing. Unwanted portions of sketching can easily be removed without spoiling the desirable portions of the drawing. The final drawing has to be fixed with the use of fixative which is made of resin and spirit. Charcoal is the best tool for practicing sketching. However, it is not best for minute detailing.

Pastel

A pastel is an art medium in the form of a stick, consisting of pure powdered pigment and a binder. The pigments used in pastels are the same as those used to produce all coloured art media, including oil paints. The binder is of a neutral hue and no colour. Dry pastels have historically used binders such as gum arabic (gum arabic is a natural gum consisting of the hardened fluid of the acacia tree). Often a chalk or gypsum component is present in a pastel. They are available in varying degrees of hardness, the softer varieties being wrapped in paper. The colour effect of the pastels is closer to that of the dry pigments than that of any other colours.

Pastels have been used since the 15th Century and gained considerable popularity in the 18th Century. An artwork made using pastels is called a pastel painting.



Soft pastels



Work done using colour pencils



Work done using Soft Pastels

Oil Pastel

Oil pastel is a painting and drawing medium with characteristics similar to pastels and wax crayons. Oil pastels consist of pigment mixed with a non – drying oil and wax binder. The surface of an oil pastel painting is less powdery, but more difficult to protect with a fixative.

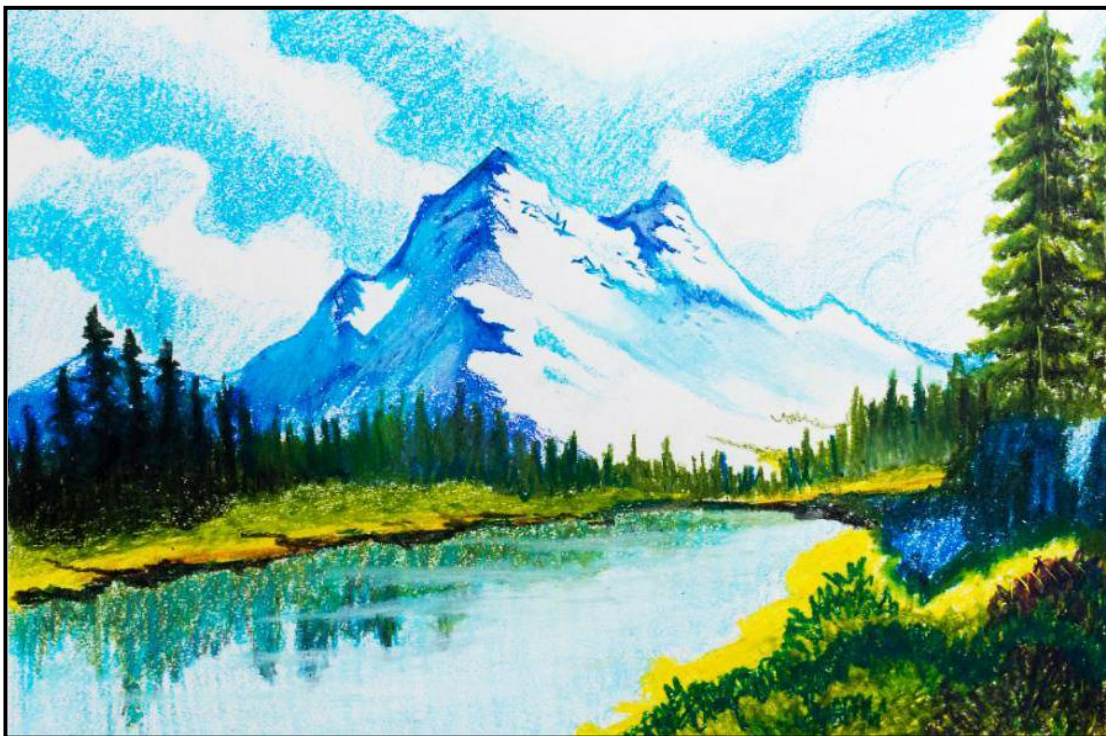
Oil pastels can be used directly in dry form. When oil pastels are done lightly, the resulting effects are similar to oil paints. Once applied to a surface, the oil pastel pigment can be manipulated with a brush moistened in white spirit, turpentine, linseed oil or any other type of oil.

Oil pastels are considered a fast medium because they are easy to paint and they are very convenient to carry. Oil pastels never dry out completely. Therefore, the artwork using oil pastels should be protected by applying a special fixative to the painting. As the oil pastels never dry, they keep on penetrating through the paper.

Paper is a common surface used for oil pastel but this medium can be used on other surfaces including wood, metal, hardboard (often known as masonite), MDF, canvas and glass. Many companies make papers specifically for pastels that are suitable for use with oil pastels.



Oil pastels



Oil Pastel Painting

Watercolour

Watercolour is a painting method in which the paints are made of pigments suspended in water – based solution. Watercolour paints are prepared by adding binding agents such as glue, honey, sugar or glycerin since they are easily soluble in water. Watercolour refers to both the medium and the resulting work. The traditional and most common surface for watercolour painting is paper. Watercolours need a special kind of paper which is called a watercolour paper which is of three types’ namely hot-pressed watercolour paper, cold-pressed watercolour paper and rough watercolour paper.

Watercolours appear luminous because the pigments are laid down in pure form with few types of filler hiding the colours. Watercolour is usually a transparent medium. Watercolours can also be made opaque by adding Chinese white.

While using watercolours two medium sized flat bowls should be used. The artist should be able to view the water level easily. While one bowl should be used for cleaning the brush, the other should be used for mixing in the colour. Clean water keeps the colours looking fresh. This is generally neglected by the students who use one and same bowl for mixing and cleaning. Water should be discarded at even the slightest change in its shade.



Watercolours

Poster Colours

A poster colour is a water-soluble paint consisting of a colour pigment mixed with a binder such as glue or gum to give it a dull finish. In many poster colours, gum arabic from acacia tree is the binder. Unlike watercolours, poster colours are opaque colours. The particles of watercolours are very small and sink into the paper whereas poster colours have large particles which sit on top of the paper. This makes poster colours an opaque medium. Poster colours have a smooth, matte and opaque paint quality.



Poster colours

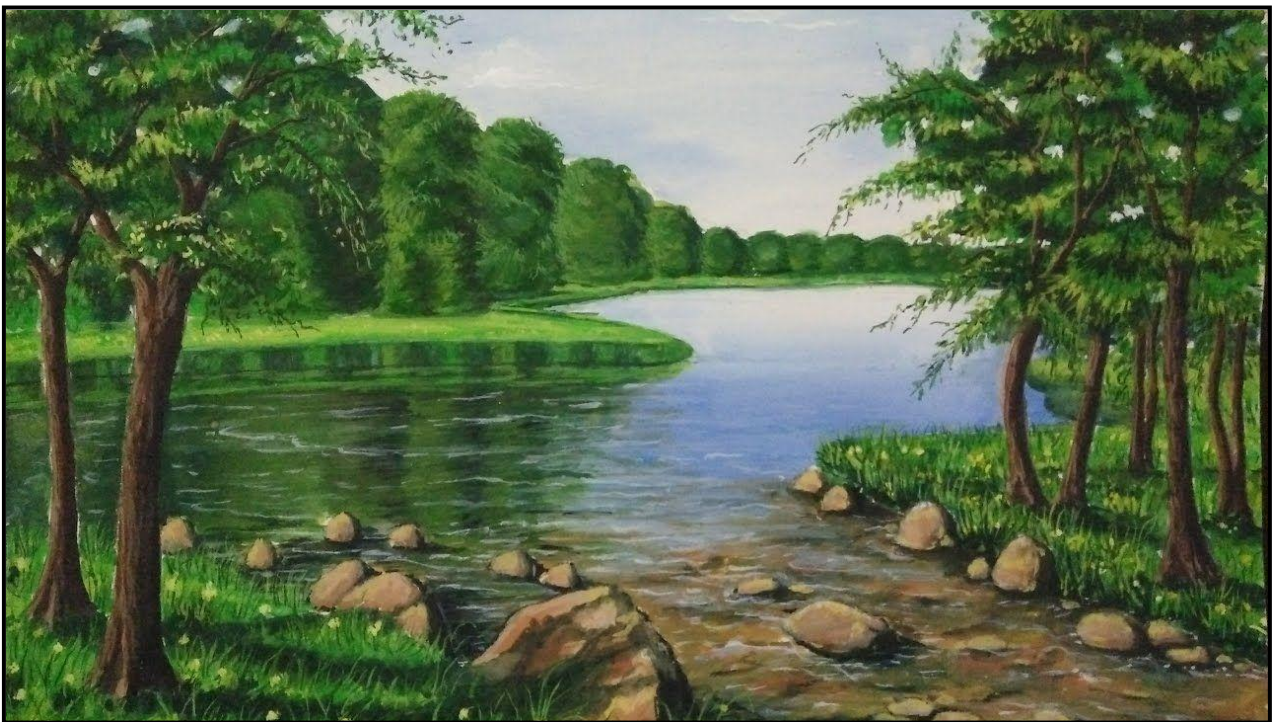
Transparent and Opaque Colouring Method

The colouring method which allows light to pass through the layers of painting and displays the whiteness and surface of the paper is known as transparent colouring method. Colours are applied in the flowing technique. For lighter colours more water is added to the colour while dark shade is prepared by reducing the quantity of water. Traditionally work is done from the lighter to the darker shade. The appropriate white space is left unpainted to reflect sunlight which is left for the areas of highlight. White is never used for the highlight of the painting. The surface colour is visible depending on the transparency of shade painted.

In opaque colouring method the paint does not allow light to pass through the layers of painting. The white background colour of the paper cannot be seen. Such colours are poster colours. Painting is done from darker to the lighter shade. White is used for the lightest value of colour. Opaque colouring method can be used for any kind of paper such as coloured tinted paper, brown paper, grey coloured paper, plain white paper etc.



Painting done with transparent watercolour technique



Painting done with opaque watercolour technique