

# Exploring Art Education in Paris- France

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## ABSTRACT

Paris, Capital of France, a city of arts where many artists crystallized their expectation and dreams, the birth place of great artistic movements like “Impressionism, “cubism”, “Surrealism”. This vibrant city became a cultural hub of healthy artistic exchanges. France underwent a great artistic revolution in early 20th century which fascinated many artists around the world to migrate to this region to master and explore the new techniques. Many Indian painters also migrated with scholarships to pursue their studies in art schools at Paris. We are going to explore the artists who were presently living in Paris and creating Jubilant works with the mélange of French strokes with Indian theme and Indian Style.

**Key Words:** France, Paris, Artists, Museum, Artistic movements

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## INTRODUCTION

Indian painters in France is a topic very interesting and comprehensive. Indian artists living in Paris were met to record their expressions, and views on French art. Discussion along with practical demonstration in their studio provided lot of inputs for the research. The artist narrated and appreciated both French art movements and Indian artistic contribution. There exists a perfect harmonious artistic exchange between two Nations India and France. Artist who lived for more than a decade and who were deeply rooted in the Parisian soil were interacted to enable the importance of Art education. The artists who were interviewed lively are presented.

**1. Ankkitham Narayanan:** Born in 1939 in the state of Kerala in India, Studied in Madras art school. He lives and works in Paris since 1967. The mixture of his Indian roots and French culture is a hallmark of Narayanan artistic expression. His work reflects his search for the divine, for freedom and for immortality, which finds expression in simple geographical reconciliation of ancestral Indian tradition with aesthetic born of French cubism. He relates Cubism to Tantric expression of Mandalas.

**2. Lakshmi dutt:** Born in Agra (India), studied in Delhi art school, obtained a scholarship and moved to Paris in 1968 to study art. She was technically trained by S. Whyter and Krishna reddy in “Atelier 17” where she mastered print making and viscosity of colors. Her works capture our senses and shows constant movement and dispersion of colours. She works on copper plates and various base board with both warm and cool colours, Her painting captures external forces such as light and energy.

**3. Anju chaudhri:** Born in Calcutta in 1944, studied intermediate in art at University of Calcutta obtained National Scholarship in University of Boroda. In 1967 she landed in Paris with the scholarship in Beaux art de Paris. Anju's colour and forms has poetry and mystery. Her works are closely associated with all five elements of nature, she is a keen observer of nature and Anju's empathy with nature gives her painting a rare and rich permanence.

**4. Katoosh Bawani:** Born in 1956, Katoch finished his studies in drawing and painting from the Govt College of art in Chandigarh. After which he left for France in 1984 on a French Govt. scholarship to study painting and lithography at the Ecole National des Beaux-arts in Paris, following which he taught drawing, lithography as well as painting for a number of years at various institutions in France. He was deeply influenced by symbolism. Mystic horizon series is an expression of, the known and the unknown; it's a meeting of different positive energies, logics and contradictions. It represents the geometry of life and symbolizes that beginning is the end of something.

**5. Madhu Basu.** Born in Kolkata and studied in Indian art college in Kolkata left India in 1989 to study in Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris (1989 to 1991). He lives and works in Paris, based on the Bengali proverb “All the Universe is contained in The pot” The pot is omnipresent in his works. Pots play a central role throughout the stages of a man's life. Indeed a potter interacts with all five essential elements - earth, water, wind, fire and space. His works on Pots highlighted on gold foils.

### MUSEUM– “TEMPLE OF LEARNING”

Paris is very famous for its museum. Museum are like library for painter's. Many painters who went to Paris describe it as “Temple of Learning”. World famous museum are situated in Paris, These museum motivates each and every individuals to explore art and to understand French artist movements and the correlation of our Indian artist works based on French artistic works.

**Louvre:** It is the biggest museum in the world which has many art treasures, It was a great experience to visualize the painting of Leonardo da Vinci, Delacroix, Giuseppe Arcimboldi in the Palace. Italian renaissance painting exhibition was open to public where one can visualize the works of Fresco in detail.

**Musée d'Orsay:** A museum in Paris, France, A railway station called Gare d'Orsay was converted into a museum between 1898 and 1900. The museum holds mainly French art dating from 1848 to 1914, including paintings, sculptures, furniture, and photography. It houses the largest collection of impressionist and post impressionist masterpieces in the world, by painters including Claude Monet, Manet, Renoir, Degas, Cézanne, Sisley, Seurat, Gauguin and Van Gogh.

A special exhibition on “PICASSO –BLEU ET ROSE” which was exhibited in museum from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to 6 January 2019.

**Musée de l'Orangerie:** A cycle of Monet's water-lily paintings, known as the “Nymphéas” was a great attraction in the Orangerie. The paintings are displayed in two oval rooms all along the walls. An exhibition on “Les contes cruels de Paul Régo” exhibited 70 painting works.

**Centre Pompidou:** The Musée National d'Art Moderne, is the largest museum for modern art in Europe. I was happy to witness the exhibition on “le cubisme” The exhibition offered an overview of Cubism in Paris, the city of its birth from 1907 to 1917.

Meeting all the contemporary Indian artist in France helped me to gather more information on their works. This was a preliminary visit to ensure the views of Indian artist in France. The topic was very well appreciated especially Ankkith Narayanan, Former president of Cholamandalam, Chennai, living in Paris since 1968 in his interview denoted and thanked ‘University of Madras’ saying “First Indian especially from south to take up interest to record the artist works of Indian painter settled in France”.

### CONCLUSION

All Indian artists were happy to share their memorable experiences painting different concepts using different techniques. They guide young generations to adopt new techniques and demonstrated the importance of construction. Their demonstration and display enable us to distinguish different techniques and colors used on each of their works. Although each painter worked on his or her own style they were representing or exhibiting a fusion of Indian and French cultural in few of their works. Almost all the artist had a great influence of Cubism and Impressionism.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all the Indian painters in France who shared their experience in form of live interviews during my visit to Paris in 2019. I also bond to express my sincere gratitude to University of Madras for permitting to visit France to carry out my research work.

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