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Wall Painting – Rejuvenation in Chennai City

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Abstract: The Wall Paintings are exposing culture, celebrations, festivals, lifestyle of people to next generation. Wall painting shows the earliest culture of the human. Such wall paintings are created in Temples, caves and the courtyard of kings. The creativity and colors of the paintings have changed according to the place, materials. And concepts are manifested from time to time. Modern color paintings are present in various forms of development and visual information; it is also a propaganda tool for people to be aware of. In the city of Chennai, wall painting tells about our traditional, cultural themes, various birds and animals with uses of modern equipment. The paintings make people aware of them and to enjoy the beauty of the concept. Lot of panels is created by the Artists with uses of modern material, modern and traditional concept with the efforts of the Chennai Corporation. It is the great contribution done by the Chennai Corporation to show the ability of Artist also to known the value of Art to the public. The study portrays the intellectual beauty, technic of wall painting which has been showed through the panels in the metro city Chennai. And this study only focuses on paintings painted by Artists in many public wall, park and heritage structure in Chennai

Keywords: Wall painting, culture, creativity, art panels, heritage, manifesting concepts.

Introduction

Painting that is drawn to the exterior of the wall or roof is a Mural painting. It is portrayed as part of the wall / roof.

This form of artwork is unique from all other types of paintings. This is in the same line as that of architectural design. It is structured form and has connection with nature that is filled with life.

There are varied forms of Mural painting such as Encaustic, Tempera, Fresco, Ceramic and Oil Mural Painting.

Paintings have been used in the early ages to portray thoughts, communicate information and a beautiful way to express stories. It has travelled all through the ages and is adapted to the current day changes in the society. Spreading thought about the medieval history or to spread knowledge or catch attention to a specific thought has been the reason for using mural painting. It plays a very important role in sharing knowledge. Paintings have been carried on from ages and there are many that have been lost in the due course. Antique Mural paintings echo our culture, lifestyle of the specific period when it was portrayed. Though the paintings are gone their content has traversed through an era.

If we track down the history of wall painting in Tamilnadu it is rearward to some 3500 years. Research done on Archaeology and the documents unearthed from such research are evidence of the existence of wall painting. Talking of research Dr. Sathyamoorthy an excavator of veppathur temple near Tanjore states in his research that Mural painting have been known to exists some 2000 years back. Antique Mural Painting mirrors the elegance of the particular civilization and living style of the epoch the painting was portrayed.

In the current scenario we see portrayal by novice artistes being painted on the street walls of the city. The mural portrayal depicts the contemporary matter of the state and city that provides more facts about the current cultural and political state of affairs. The mural have more information and also with more of current affair. An artist from France has stated that Mural Painting is a style of painting.

We will also know about the Mural artistes, their role and influence that they have on the society, day to

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day problems that they face, mural techniques that they use, materials, and tools, assess mural paintings of legendary artists and historian writers collected from periodicals. We can also know about the artists views from the direct interviews had with them.

Techniques

During the earlier era paintings were done by scratching the art on the wall, on top of it charcoal had been applied, later color stones had been used followed by herbal leaves and color dyes to paint on the wall of the caves. By epochs, fresco painting cam live had come to existence. Using this technique paintings are drawn on the plaster of wall that is formed using lime or cement or on ceiling or other things. Whilst the plaster is damp, the painting is done on top of the dampness, later it is allowed to dry such that the chemicals used in the painting lingers on the painting enabling to sustain the art for hundreds of years. Another technique, Fresco- Secco paintings were created on dry plaster, eggs ,oil or glue or rice or using some binding materials such that it allows the paint to stick on top of the plaster. After the plaster dries using material such as water colour, oil paints, acrylic paints, water emulsions with chemicals have been used to paint the art. This method is the current trend.

There are varied types of Mural painting namely

1. Encaustic Mural Painting;
2. Tempera Mural Painting;
3. Fresco Mural Painting;
4. Ceramic Mural;
5. Oil Mural Painting.

Encaustic Mural Painting

In this type of painting colorful dyes are mixed with hot liquid bees wax such that it yields mesmerizing and elegant painting. This has been invented by an ancient Greek artist. In this technique wax is the main ingredient as it is an exquisite additive. The wisdom to adopt this technique has been drawn from Roman archivists in many of these paintings. An example of such technique is on display in New York MOMA – (Museum Of Modern Art) that has two paintings by Jasper john that show the usage of this technique.

Tempera Mural Painting: It is a painting where the painting art is given a finishing touch by using Pigment that are ground to a miscible medium. These type of painting last for a longer period of time. It was found by early Egyptian Sarcophagi decoration. Many of the tempera painting a times use the properties of encaustic painting compared to egg Tempera painting and this is a lengthy process. An example of such type is the painting by Andrew Wyeth," Christia's world -1948". The artwork is in display at the MOMA New York.

Fresco Mural painting: In this technique materials to do the art work are water based that are applied to the surface of the wall. Fresco painting is famous for its monumental style. Water is the main material used in these paintings. Ancient Egyptian painting, the creation of Adam by Michel Angelo painted during 1508-12, is a fresco type painting.

Ceramic Mural: As the name says, painting is done using tiles and glossy pieces of stone. Examples of such paintings are largely found in Iraq, Turkey and Tunisia - mosque of Uqba.

Oil Mural painting; In this technique of painting colourful pigments are mixed with oil to colour the layout of the image. Each stroke used to paint takes a long time to dry. As it takes a long time to dry the paintings lasts forever. Oil plays a vital role in the painting that endures the lifetime of the painting. Well know Mona Lisa painting by Leonardo da Vinci is an example of this type of painting.

Modern arts, Graffiti are all widely done with paints, acrylic colour by using modern instruments. Now a days mural artists do the painting on the wall with concept prepared with a proto type in small sketches. Pictures are enlarged using cubic method, projector focus trace of the figure is also done. Tin spray is now largely used , air compressor painting are some of the latest technique that are used. Even the updated version of brushes are also used. By and large stencil painting are also done.

History of Renaissance

The Indian Painting plays important role in the World History of Arts. The earliest Indian painting is rock painting of ancient time. Pre- historic period mural were found in Tamil Nadu, in Karikkiyoor forest.(Figure 1). The paintings were of length 53 meters and height of 15 meters. There were more

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than 500 such images. Some the painting are a series of bull fighting, Wild animals like deer, elephant, domestic animal fowl, a man riding on a animals, a man carrying animals such as a monkey, a mongoose and a snake and a warrior with weapons and a masterpiece one is group of dancer with their thrown arms over person's waist.(Figure 2)

The Petro glyphs found in Bhimbetka rock are of 30000 years old. Ajanta is renowned and one of the oldest painting of India. Ajanta painting was done during 2nd to 6th century. These painting of Buddha reflect, love, peace, and happiness. On Ajanta painting there are some documentary evidence of 5th century.(Figure3). The painter who painted it dedicated their life for this painting.1500 years before Ajanta painting era there were many painting found scatter in some place some were still found many got destroyed. In Maharashtra state surrounding PITLAKARA has many such paintings during Ajanta era.

During the reign of Gupta in 4th and 5th century 9 caves were discovered in Himalayas with amazing paintings later it was destroyed. Splendid paintings during the Gupta period on caves were done on all the walls of the caves with mural painting. In the 11th century king Yeshe, built 108 monasteries in his kingdom with fine color full painting. Which play vital role in trans- Himalayan Buddhism. Their kashmirian artist paints are rich in textile with decorative elements, this type of painting come from Gandhara and Central Asia. The ancient Dravidian period rulers such as chera, chola, pandiya, and pallava kings had also followed the painting tradition in their kingdom. Pallava was one of the greatest of the pallava era. The capital was kanchipuram. There were varied sculptures and painting to show their passion for arts. The well know paintings were in kanchipuram and panamali near villupuram. Pallava kings made various sculpture and painting as a expression of the passion toward the art, kanchipuram painting (Figure 5), panamlai painting (Figure 4) near villupuram.

The sculptures of Mahabalipuram show how their patronage towards arts. The recent archeological survey on Vepattur temple (Figure 6) near tanjore says that more painting of pallava have been found in a 2000 year old temple.

In the same temple paintings of chola period and nayakas painting have also been found. Such paintings are reflection of the deity of worship, celebration and festival with elegant colors. During the chola period there were many such great paintings, they are still the greatest paintings of 10th century. The colors used in the painting are so gentle and glossy, the lights of jewelry in the painting are overwhelming and background of the painting are also fabulous. The great Rajaraja chola painting are known to depict dramas. In one of their painting in Brihadeesvara temple (Figure 7) the guru is given importance and the king is shown as standing behind him. In many places, during the Chola period, many temples have been built and its interior hall's ceiling has paintings on them. The wall painting in Konerirajapuram temple (Figure 8) situated near kumbakonam built during 9th century has a great work of mural painting on the wall and on the ceiling.

Of all the arts during that period significant is the granite sculpture where kandoraditta is offering prayer in front of a Siva Lingam and Sembian Mahadevi is standing behind Shiva. Beneath the painting Chola renovation and its details are scripted. A very significant painting shows British people during that period attending an Hindu religious function. Another painting depicts lord Shiva returning back after hunting, the background of the painting shows the influence of western painting techniques. Sri Thiagaraja swami of 17th century at Thiruvarur (Figure 9), had drawn some mural painting, such as dancing movement of lord Siva (Natarajar) rising the left leg, Arthanathiswara (Half lord Shiva and half Parvathi) (Figure 10), Uthradanavam of lord Siva are some of the great piece of work by him. The paintings had ornaments that have been coloured glossily. The Chithambram Natarajar temple has great piece of mural painting during the chola and nayaka reign in the 11th century and 16th century respectively.

Some of the great piece of work of mural painting depicts king as giving anathanam (Figure 11), another painting as giving money to the poets.

The attire and ornaments shown in the painting have been decorated by using bright and glossy colors. One of the master pieces of the painting on the ceiling depicts Lord Parvathi offering puja to lord Siva in the form of lingam. There are also depiction of a cow,

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people, a king and also a garuda offering puja. During the Pandya's rule between 550 AD and 1310 AD, Madurai was it's capital. The earliest painting were painted by the Pandya and later by Jain in Chithanavasal near Pudukottai. (Figure `12)

The painting depicts – pond that is fully covered with leaves of lotus flowers, fish women, elephant and duck. The moment depicted in the painting shows happiest moment of the particular era. King's who ruled Madurai between 1529 and 1736 encouraged the art of painting during their time. It is during the rule of Pandya's that the series of paintings on the walls of the Meenakshi Amman Temple have been done, they are elegant depiction of deities' stories. The sanga ilakiyam (ancient Tamil literature) has more details and information about Dravidian Tamil murals. The current region of Konkumandalam and Kollam in Kerala had been earlier under the Chera regime currently they are under the state of Kerala. During the Chera regime between 3rd to 10th century they had built many temples with painting. Their painting depicts how people worship and do prayers. The kings of Vijayanagar also played a vital role in following mural paintings. It was during their period in 14th century the beautiful atmosphere of Hampi had been portrayed using mural painting. The paintings portray the stories of King's, their faith in God. Lepaskshi temple built in in the 14th century by nayak brothers has mural painting in the ceiling of the main hall (Mandapam), that is a depiction of medieval period. The painting portrays liveliness of the image. During the 16th to 19th century in Kerala the paintings of Lord Siva and parvathi, Krishna and Rama had been drawn on the wall of the temple,. This type of painting remains the Ajanta and akhi. Deities painted are more masculine that are full of firm content in it. Their idiom of painting has been quiet unique. The mural paintings done in the temple depict the ancient stories in an elaborate format. During 16th century in northern part of India Mughal emperor Akbar started to revive the painting after a gap of a century. Finest miniatures were made in the court of Akbar. His capital Fatephur Sikiri had been painted. There are numerous mural painting in a miniature format in his capital city. The paintings depicted the market place, people using elephants and horses for their trade. The bundelas who were from central India (Bundelkhand), in their city orchha in 1531 had used Mural paintings to draw on the walls of the court. Their painting blends are of two significant styles – Mugal and Rajput. This style has been more unique. The mural painting of Rajasthan from the 17th century had been influenced by the Mughals. The finest murals are found in Bhojanshala of the Ajmer palace near Jaipur. The vaishava, theme of drawing has more of trade community- Marwari- in 19th and 20th century. They are depicted in the panels upon the wall and they were small in size. The depiction was majorly in trade route to other place. The Verdant Pahari hill continues tradition of mural in India. In the 18th and 19th century their mural paintings Rang Mahal in Chamka are living example of Pahari Hural. The painting is mostly based on religion and they are in miniature shape. Orissa in the India has mural on wall in 18th century at Viranchinarayan temple. The Punjab takes the last phase of mural paintings. They are found in Amritsar's market place, temple in Kishankot and Qila Mubarak in Patiala fort. In ancient times, the philosophical thought of religion has been either Hinduism or Buddhism. The depiction of religion had been done using mural painting that had spread to other part of Asian countries. In Tamil Nadu during the earlier invention of British colony in Ramanathapuram (Figure 13) palace has mural painting of classical and western influences. Their painting are immortalized and they were honored by Nayaks. Through which we came to know that, the painting of the 5th century of Sigiriya and 12th century of Polonnarua in Srilanka, 12th century pagodas of Bagan in Burma and the Horuyi temple painting in Japan, reflects Indian mural painting.

In 1930 – Binyan, the British Museum Director, said "whoever studies the art of China and Japan at whatever part he begins starts on a long road which will lead him ultimately to Ajanta."

Influence of Mural Painting on the Society

The Mural paintings ideas touches day to day issues, they are more satirical about the political parties. The social impact has been in the form of movement, some of the artists movement had been initiated like, Bengal, Delhi, Madras and Bombay school of artist movement. At later stage these movements had changed to institution for teaching and promoting more artists. A common man is educated about painting in such artists school post their education they turnout as painters. At varied stages painting had a variety of evolution and development.

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However, Mural wall painting's had been used in royal palaces too. The dominance of such painting has been in the Monarchy's temple and art galleries. Post the ruler's era, the same mural painting has evolved to another stage in the democratic era. Now people are able to see Mural painting on the walls of the streets. During such evolution even a novice painter exhibit their art on the walls of the street. Other than the fine arts students even the foreign artists too have been drawn towards mural painting. A major change has been the wall painting fetches rent to the owner of the wall periodically.

The major impact has been from the political scenario, post-independence electoral has played a major role in the street wall paintings. The symbols of the political party, advertising companies, government organization, private institutions, public movement organization and cinema industries are painted on the street walls. In Chennai, we can see all of the above institutions and organizations their principle, awareness, and promotions still continue to use street wall Mural paintings. The impact of Mural painting in Chennai will be discussed in the following section, changes in the political scenario, media industry and other institutions, games have from time to time brought an awareness of the painting and the love of public towards this art.

Chennai Walls Evolved By Politics

Political mural painting after independence paved a path to reach people. All political parties use wall mural painting as one of the colossal platform to reach people.

All the politician parties (Figure 14) use their leader and their manifesto painted on the street walls using mural painting. On portraying different parties manifesto on the wall it enables people at all levels to compare the offers by political parties. They will be able to judge the party based on the manifesto that they see on the street walls. Mural paintings also enable political parties to spread the parties' principles, policies and their symbol through this reach about the party is exhaustive. Some revolutionary party use street wall paintings to convey message to people in the form of cartoon by painting pictures on the wall. Such messages reach public well, this type of paintings started in 1937 during anti Hindi agitation period. This was taken up by Dravidar Kalagam. Portraits of the national leader were painted - namely, Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose etc., Even communist leader pictures such as Karlmax, Lenin and Stalin had been painted. Communist party used street wall painting method to spread their policies and communism such that even a common layman can understand communism principles. During 1960 to 1970 the Congress party used street wall painting to spread their principles in the ordinary language. Then during regime of DMK period they used wall paintings to promote their symbol, principle and policies.

Communist party used street wall painting method to spread their policies and communism such that even a common layman can understand communism principles. During 1960 to 1970 the Congress party used street wall painting to spread their principles in the ordinary language. Then during regime of DMK period they used wall paintings to promote their symbol, principle and policies. During 1977 even Congress party had used mural paintings on the street walls to spread party's principles and their symbol during election time. They also spread their new party symbol during the 1977 election. This had greater impact on the election results. MGR was a popular film personality, mural painting helped him as a politician to spread about his vision. He had started a new party, using mural paintings on the street wall new party name and symbol was spread among people to a greater extent. This reached each and every corner of the state. The ADMK and DMK parties had been political rivals, both the parties used mural painting as a tool to criticize other parties policies and draw cartoons to comment about their performance. The other parties reaction about the message drawn as cartoon was also reflected in the form of messages countering their cartoons in the form of paintings. When the DMK party came to power after 12 year the wall mural painting propaganda paved a grant way to capture the importance of mural painting. The painting wall also played a crucial role between two parties based on that in 2014 a movie was filmed. The name of the movie was "Madras". The movie shows a real scenario of the two political party conflicts about the mural painting on the street wall.

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The Mural Painting is The Field of Play for Cinema And Theatre

Prior to cinema there were dramas enacted on the stage. Those stages were painted using mural paintings. Major part of the drama stage was used to depict a scenario using mural paintings. There is always a backdrop on the drama stage. Such backdrops were painted. Most of the theaters had been engaged fully with drama. The Backdrop on the drama stage played a vital role in drama. Backdrop was done by painting according to drama scenario. They were painted scene by scene, the backdrop changed with drama scenario too. The backdrop painting are of nearly 10 different types based on the requirements, such as normal standard drama, social and mythological drama. Mythological drama has its own back ground according to the story they adopt. There were many drama group managed by different groups. They had their own collection of stories to be enacted; they were mythological, historical and sociological. Post drama era cinema had come into place. Cinema trend had started to rise. People's liking for drama started to reduce. In cinema's instead of painting set design work started to emerge. Painting transformed to set design work. Transformation from drama to cinema and in the painting trend did not affect the painting quality. Indeed the paintings have been used in many movies. There are variations in painting in each movie, the decorative style adopted follows the contemporary style of painting. In a movie theatre , particular movies set was depicted as a profile and exhibited in front of the cinema theatre to promote the movie. Paintings are also used to promote a movie. A new dimension of mural painting has evolved. As a part of new evolution these painting started to be exhibited on the wall. In different places same painting scenario of the movie was repeated for people to view it. A times based on the movie theme different scenario of the movie are painted on the wall. Paintings of scenes from a movie made people more anxious to watch the movie. Such paintings are used to promote a movie. Mural raised a demand for the artists as more and more such paintings were used for cinema. The remuneration paid to such artist was also high. Cinema mural painting made people anxious to watch a movie, they became curious to watch a movie. A movie leading artists images were portrayed on the wall such that people were eager to watch the artists movie. Such leading movie artists portraits have been MKT, MGR, Shivaji Ganeshan, Rajini kanth, Kamalhasan (Figure 15) and the current leading heroes Vijay, Ajith and many more artists.

To state some examples were paintings of movies have been done are MKT enacted movie Haridas, MGR- movie like Anbe vaa, Enga Vettu Pillai, Ulagam Sutrum Valiban and so many. Movies enacted by Shivaji Ganeshan such as Vasantha Maligai, Parasakthi, Pasamalar and so many other movies. Such portray made them popular and based on their popularity many fan clubs came into existence. Fans portray their leading artists photographs in different postures using mural painting on their wall at home/office. When a movie is box office hit, for 25th day, 50th day 100th day still more 175th day they paint the portrait of their leading artists to exhibit their success. Thereby attract common man to watch their movies. This type of practice has gained momentum from 1960 to 2000. Now also in Chennai in some region this practice is carried on. The cinema industry brings to the Chennai walls colorful, and glorious moment to the eyes of the people.

Chennai Mural in Advertising Awareness

Advertising companies in Chennai use the street walls to draw mural paintings of the goods that companies want to promote. It is another platform to advertise products. In the mid of 19th century Coco cola used this platform to advertise about their cool drinks. It showed the path for other companies to follow it. Other major companies used the same platform to advertise about their products. Mural painting was the medium of advertisement. Such mural painting started in Chennai and now it has reached other parts of Tamil Nadu. Although common man painted their house the inner walls were filled with rich colors. Common man likes colourful house and corporates used the medium as a platform for advertisement. Few companies that used mural painting to advertise about their products had been Coco Cola, Pepsi Co., Gopal Tooth Powder, 501 Soap, Siboal country Medicine and Anjal alupu medicine. Few years later it has become more professional and organized sector . Many companies were formed to draw mural paintings for such advertisements.

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Awareness Movement

To create awareness among people of certain concepts mural painting play a vital role. One of the concept had been organized by Tamil Nadu State Government Health department (TNSGHD) –The concept was about creating awareness of population. The famous quote of population awareness painting "we two have one" had been done using mural painting on the street walls of Tamil Nadu. Using mural painting a disease awareness campaign for Filarial program had been conducted by TNSGHD. These paintings helped Government to create public awareness of the illness. (Figure 16)

Similarly an awareness of Cholera, Malaria etc., had been carried on by the Government of TamilNadu. Even for vaccination program Government has carried on the to display necessary message, the messages were drawn on the hospital walls and on public walls that can be viewed by public. Using mural paintings the health department also informed general public about the seasonal diseases, chronic flu and in the important way to keep themselves safe from the disease. Mural painting played a key role in keeping people informed about small pox that is eradicated now.

Students created mural awareness by using decorative murals on the school walls, railway station and on the Government building walls. To cite an example is the mural painting done by the AMM matriculation school student on a wall (Figure 17) that had posters on it that sored the eyes of public.

The ambattur suburban railway station compound wall was filled by mural painting. Jeeva suburban station compound wall was also painted by students. Many school walls were filled with mural painting. Student mural painting carry a serious message to public, many message were told in subtle manner. One of such message was about rain water harvesting, the painting was so profound with elaborate details of how rain comes and how to save them in a pictorial form that was easy for a common man to understand the concept. Another great adventure concept of awareness is about global warming, this complicated subject was neatly painted on the wall that was conveyed in an awareness manner . It is was easily understandable. Another concept depicted using mural painting was Green Tree and It's Necessary. It was a revolutionary way of portraying importance of tree , and need of mankind that is O2 given by trees and they take back from us CO2. Another painting conveyed the concept of farming and their importance, farmers provide an important service to mankind, the message was in a poetic way. Painting on organic farming was portrayed using mural painting. This painting was well painted. This gave a positive message to common man of its usefulness. Another concept was Swatch Barath – Clean India, the concept was portrayed by class 10 students using mural painting, it displayed the need of cleanliness and how we should keep our surroundings clean in our day to day life. The paintings of our independence leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and great freedom fighters were well painted.

Public Organization

The contribution by public organization towards mural painting was really remarkable. One such programme was the Cleaning Program of Chennai, organized by Chennai Trekking Club- with 8000 volunteers. They had gathered to clean 50 ton of garbage from coastal area of the city. Mural painting to inform public and bring about awareness was done on the walls of Chennai by students of Anna University. (Figure 18)

The painting was done for the program conducted in 2017-June 2018. An NGO Nalandaway organization did a mural painting in Saidapet suburban railway station entrance. (Figure 19)

The painting was a colorful painting of actors from 1950 to the current era such as MGR, Shivaji Ganeshan, Rajinikanth, Kamalhasan, and so on. Nearly 18 suburban station in Chennai were painted using various theme by different Organization. Sathyam a renowned cinema theatre's wall in Chennai and all of their theaters all over Tamilnadu were nicely painted and colored with different theme. The Candle (Figure 20) another organization invited volunteers to clean and paint the wall of government school in and around Red hill, Chennai they made good attempt with various theme and called their collection as "VARANAM".

Chennai Corporation and Its Contribution

To people, the Chennai Corporation joined hand with artists. They have done fabulous painting on the street walls of Chennai city. Through this painting they

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have depicted people lifestyle, their festivals, their love toward arts and traditional games. The impact of some of promote Tamil culture and to cultivate the art of the Tamil the paintings is narrated here:

The Ravivarma's painting girl (Figure 21) with sitar sitting on the bench with modern background it was portrayed on the street wall. Another painting tells rural life the straw in the chart and in the background people are walking wonderful piece of work(Figure 22), one art reminds us the traditional women having a fruits in the plate details of the face nicely painted with multicolour modern strokes (Figure 23), another painting folk dancer dance different variety of village cultural folk dance (Figure 24). Another painting of a girl with their grandmother who is chopping the vegetables and saying story to the girl with her grandfather in a village atmosphere (Figure 25) really shows their happy movement. A women splashing over tiger with muram shows the bravery of our ancient women (Figure 26) has been portrayed well. Another painting portrays an olden day where fisherman who is fishing in the pond in a beautiful greenery village environment (Figure 27).. Mahabharata's battle field scene was grandly painted (Figure 28). In a village house mother lullaby songs to make her child sleep had been portrayed well (Figure 29). A painting of tiger with two colors one side fleet of tiger and on the other side shows (Figure 30) only one tiger, this symbolically denotes extinction of tiger race. The greatest poet of all time Thiruvalluvar statue (Figure 31) which was erected by our former chief minister M.Karunanidhi stands majestically near Vivekananda rock, is one of the masterpieces of painting done by Chennai corporation. The sculpture on the wall of temple in a row without a break in a chain form with many movement of statue had been beautifully painted (Figure 32) Traditional farming had been was painted where a woman showing paddy in her hand with farming background in a village portrays (Figure 33) an aesthetic environment to your eye. A portrayal of our national bird peacock that shows as if its spreading its feather (Figure 34) looks so lively when viewed closely. Tiruchi - Malai kotai painting with colorful (Figure 35) back round looks so lively. The bamboos in dense forest (Figure 36) closely packed we are not able to pork other side of the forest .the pallava period great cave sculpture (Figure 37) temple really looks so impressive which looks more lively and takes us to that place. Our traditional games mentally and physically healthy games (Figure 38) were nicely portrayed which induces the present viewer to know about those games,

These great piece of works done by Chennai Corporation and our great dedicated artists have collaborated and delivered a great piece of work, which had impressed public.

The Foreign Contribution toward Chennai Mural Art

The mural painting had been painted by people from different walks of life by using their own style. The Stella Maris College from Chennai use a traditional style with a new concept, new method that are in sync with the modern day painting. Not only Stella Maris College but also people from other college too had used modern mural painting.

Foreign artists had collaborated with Chennai Mural artists to exchange their thoughts on Mural painting, their methods and cultural ideas. The concepts of German artists had transformed in to painting at the Chennai Egmore. (Figure 39)

Views about Chennai Mural Painting

There have been considerable comments about people's perception on Chennai mural painting. Newspaper clipping and various news articles express different views about the significance of mural paintings on walls in Chennai. An article in the Economic Times expresses views on "how city walls are becoming the artist's canvas".

Each view indicates the message that it has been a boon to society and clearly expresses common man views on its importance and elegance to keep it conserved. There are also negative views to indicate that art had been defaced by political, commercial and cinema posters. This indicates common man view and importance of art and painting's in the ever evolving society. Some of the comments and views shared by common man about mural art wall painting are as stated here:

A group of artists expressed that these wall paintings adds to the beauty of the city, visualizing concepts provides a lively experience to a person who is not able to visit the particular place.

It provides shape to ancient history, culture and life style. It also helps to protect the extinction of this art.

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Today's digital world has many easy ways to showcase art or culture, still artists hold onto the traditional way of painting. This thought enables artists to grow stronger in their artistic skills.

Common people view these paintings as; cinema posters give an impact of celebrities within us, much more than that wall art provides us knowledge of great leaders, social messages and values of life. A common view about a movie poster or a political poster doesn't stop a common man to urinate or pollute that place, but wall paintings create impact within a common man and stop them from behaving non-social.

On viewing wall painting common man feels happy and is refreshed with the thoughts that painting conveys.

Here are some comments and interviews of students on wall mural painting: Student Shanmathi.s says , that ' personally, the wall arts in the city reflects our cultural extravagance and it indeed glorifies the core meaning of the soul of the city . At the same time, I think the art is not used extensively around the city to impart more visual glory to the resident and children. The street mural painting could also serve as a medium of 'street 'move to the tourists". Student Prathiba says, "I feel that the wall mural painting in Chennai is a great mode of inculcating a sense of heritage to the people living in the city. But in my opinion there are very few murals are seen in only certain area and the meaning behind the mural reaches only people who frequently pass through that locality. This can be remedied by selecting strategic locations throughout the city and painting murals that brings out a sense of inherent to the citizen of the city and also imbibe certain moral to the youngsters."

Trotsky Marudu says when modernization began paintings were also a part of it which was purely political. After certain period of time to keep the city clean and increase tourism Art works with storytelling concepts had been used to showcase culture. Artwork about English books and literature done in the Stella Maris College is now overruled by our culture arts. We must learn its significance and conserve it.

NS Manoharan says "Beautification of city had been initiated by college students and Chennai Corporation intentionally to showcase the culture according to the place, where commoners live and place where sophisticated people live". Paintings had been drawn according to the place and also to show the culture of our homeland, there were also paintings to create a social awareness.

Member of the Tamil Nadu Artists' Association Mr.J.P. Krishna has expressed dismay at this move. He said, "It is sad to see our paintings being covered. They represent Tamil art and culture in the city. However, the previous council did not allow us to maintain the paintings. They gave the maintenance contracts to road contractors. They could have given these walls to artists for better maintenance."

Prof A. Rajendran - Head of the Department at Chennai Fine Arts College, Commercial Artworks and political artworks expresses that art can be covered-up comparatively in many places than the other paintings do. This is purely one sided and there is no social consciousness in these kind of artworks. This artwork can be modernized that could add up to social awareness as well as, including the advertisement, which attracts more audience. Including advertisement has its own advantage as it earns revenue from the companies that sponsor the advertisement. Similarly political parties too can create social awareness paintings to show their dictum towards the society.

Conclusion

In the ancient period, wall paintings had been used to show stories of our earlier generations. Such paintings display traditional, cultural values, everyday life-style, celebrations of a particular locality to the next generation. Today this kind of paintings helps to know and learn our social responsibilities. Wall paintings in temples shows how to worship in proper method, ways to lead a proper life. Storytelling, life teachings, value of life, good and bad is not being taught to children in the current scenario. Certain teachings of life have been demonstrated via painting and artwork that are slowly getting destroyed. In this scenario student, NGOs Artist Associations, and Chennai Corporation have done a great job by encouraging art and beautifying public spaces by giving them a new life. This gives us immense pleasure. A student views this artwork that helps them to keep in mind, what was in the world earlier. Advertising companies have done a remarkable job, for artist, by changing their message

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frequently. They want to use new concept by using bright colors and design. Health department has done a commendable job with mural wall paintings to inform citizen of each area in the city about health and messages that a common man can benefit in beautiful way.

This study shows that man's morality, knowledge, culture, and refreshing spirit will grow, and that the place where the human habitat live will turn into a beautiful environment.

A final thought about Chennai Public Murals and Wall Paintings is that it provides refreshment and rejuvenation to a citizen's heart and Society.

Figures



Figure 1: Karikkiyoor forest Pre-Historic period mural Painting. (Ref from- www.alamy.com).



Figure 2: Karikkiyoor forest Pre- Historic period mural group of Dancer. (Ref from- www.alamy.com).



Figure 3: Ajanta painting, Maharashtra, 5th century

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Figure 4: Pallavaa painting in Panamalai -AD 600 to AD 850



Figure 5: Pallavaa painting in kanchipuram -AD 600 to AD 850



Figure 6: Veppathur Mural Painting--AD 300 to AD 850



Figure 7: King Rajaraja Chola and guru (teacher) Karuvurar, Brihadeesvara temple, Tamil Nadu, 11thcentury

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Figure 8: Konerirajapuram Mural Painting-18th century



Figure 9: Lord Siva [Natarajar]-Mural Painting-Thiruvarur Thiyagarajaswamy temple-17th Century



Figure 10: Arthanathiswara-Mural Painting-Thiruvarur Thiyagarajaswamy temple-17th Century



Figure 11: Kings of giving anathanam-chitan chidambaram mural paintings-11th -16th Century

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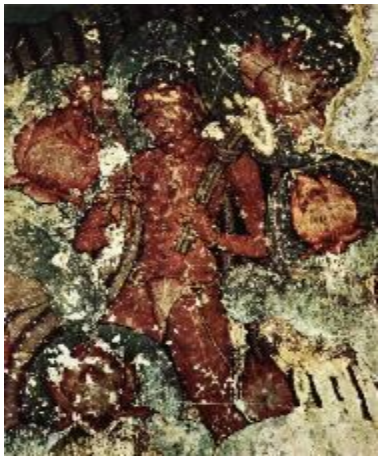

Figure 12: Chithanavasal Mural Painting-8th Century



Figure 13: Ramanathapuram-Ramalinga vilasam Mural Painting –17th Century



Figure 14: Political Mural –Chennai

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Figure 15: Cinema Mural Painting- Actor Kamalhasan Port right-Chennai Wall



Figure 16: Awareness Mural painting



Figure 17: AMM School Students Painting at Kotturpuram, Chennai



Figure 18: Wall Painting, public organization collaboration with Anna University student volunteers



Figure 19: Mural Painting in Saidapet suburban railway station. by Nalandaway org

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Figure 20: Candle org, with Student volunteer Painting



Figure 21: Ravivarma's Painting Girl with sitar sitting on the bench with modern background



Figure 22: Rural life the straws in the Chart



Figure 23: Women having a fruits in the plate details of the face nicely Painted with multicolor modern strokes Painting

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Figure 24: Folk dancer dance different variety of village cultural folk dance



Figure 25: A girl with her grandmother



Figure 26: A Women splashing over tiger with muram painting



Figure 27: Fisherman who is fishing in the pond

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Figure 28: Mahabharata's battle field scene painting



Figure 29: Mother in a village house singing lullaby to make her child sleep scene painting



Figure 30: Two colors one side fleet of tiger and on other side symbolically denotes extinction of tiger race



Figure 31: Thiruvalluvar Statue Painting

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Figure 32: The sculpture in the wall of temple painting



Figure 33: A Village woman painting



Figure 34: National bird peacock –painting



Figure 35: Tiruchi - Malaikotai painting

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Figure 36: Bamboos in a dense forest



Figure 37: The Pallava period great cave sculpture Temple



Figure 38: Traditional game



Figure 39: Indo-German painting at Chennai Egmore

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