Short Notes

Krishna with Gopies (Manaku):-

The painting ‘Krishna with Gopies’ is based on Jaydwa’s ‘Geat-Gobinda’painted by famous painter Manaku. It is supposed that it was painted for a private patron Malini. The painting presents Krishna surrounded by Gopies singing and dancing on the back of river Yamuna. The composition is in typical Basholi style with geometrical pattern. The use of bold colour infused vitality in the painting. Krishna is wearing a bright yellow dress with his upper body naked but ornamented. He is also wearing a crown with jewels and peacock plumes. There is no use of perspective but colour combination with golden background has been given sufficient depth to the painting. The clarity of the designs and lines and intensity of felling is achieved by the use of colour like golden yellow, Vermilion mixed with colour tones of blue and green enhancing the felling of intensity and the beauty of the painting. In this painting, the human figures a backward sloping forehead, lotus like large eyes, high nose almost in the same line of forehead and powerful bodies presented idealistic body symmetry and lent distinction to the Gopies figure. The shining emerald in the ornaments pieces of iridescent bettle-wings are used in the illustration of the jewels. Besides the bold colour lustrous enamel like colour is also employed. The figure of women are shown clad in rich costumers, stylized faces, bulging eyes lend a natural stage like setting for the group. This is one of the best paintings drawn by Manaku expressing the beauty and brilliance of Basholi style.

Bharat Worshipping Charan-Padukas of Rama:-

In this painting has been painted the episode of the Ramayana in which has been shown Bharat having been substituted Rama’s Padukas on an ornamented bedstead at an appropriate place in Ayodhya, worshipping them with his councilors. To protect Rama’s Padukas, they have encircled with a canopy or tent that has been fixed under a tall tree and to honour them double-levelled royal umbrellas have been installed. Numerous official in vivid dresses of the Mughal style are standing, with folding hands, in queues; whereas one man has shown doing obeisance in Islamic style. The leaves of the trees have been painted very delicately. In background, there are hills. In right side, on a height, has been shown a white palace. Down that in the valley has been shown running a river. In back side has been shown indistinct and obscure figures.

Cosmic Dance of Shiva:- This miniature painting belongs to Chamba (Pahari) sub-school. In dark background has been shown Shiva doing cosmic dance. In left side have been shown, standing in motley costumes, mother Parvati, child Ganesh, Kartikeya and ox Nandi, who are watching Shiva engaged in dancing. In right side has been shown Banasura playing on the Tambourine Mridang and other devotees of Shiva playing on the various musical instruments. Shiva’s hair are scattered in form of tangled hair. There is a snake round his neck and down the loins is tied skin of a tiger. In this painting, the sky has been shown in dark blue colour to specify white cloud, on that has been made a white stripe. This painting, very simply, presents the glimpse of divine mysticism.

Nand, Yashoda and Krishna with Kinsmen going to Vrindavana (Nainsukh):-

In this painting, the inhabitants of Gokul as well as Nand, Yashoda and Krishna have been shown going to Vrindavana. Based on episode of Bhagvat Puran and painted in Kangra style. In this painting have been shown thirteen human figures. Three of them have been shown swimming in the Yamuna. Rest of the figures have been shown in various countenances and wearing clothes of vivid colours, on other side of the river. Krishna has been shown in blue colour, half naked but wearing different ornaments made of gold. There is a golden crown on his head. All the persons are half naked except Nand and Yashoda. One other crowned person, who has put on blue-coloured costume, is possibly Balram, raising one of his hands up is signaling towards Vrindavana. All the human figures have worn stripped clothes down the loins and their heads have have also been covered with multi-coloured cloth. On left bank of the river, there is a bird sitting on a cut stem of a heavy tree. On other stem has also been shown a sitting bird. In right side of the painting is a tree on which have been shown coiled round creepers. In the background, there is sky surrounded with clouds, and through them are peeping out the golden buildings of Vrindavana. The ground of the other side of the river has been shown filled with greenery.

Radha and Krishna Looking into a Mirror:-

This painting was painted in Garhwal (Pahari) style; in this painting have been shown Radha and Krishna sitting in balcony side on a well trimmed yellow coloured bedsheet bed. Krishna has been holding a mirror in one of his hands, and Radha-Krishna are very intently looking at each other’s image into that. Two female attendants are sitting in opposite directions in the front side of the painting; one of them has turned her neck towards Radha-Krishna and enjoying seeing them sitting together. The interior part of this mansion has been decorated with a peculiar combination of light yellow and white colours. Out of balcony have been shown flowering plants. In this painting, the rhythm city of lines and placidity of colours is matchless.