

Artform: Tanjore Painting

Tanjore painting, also known as Thanjavur painting, is a classical South Indian art form that originated in the town of Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu. This art form is renowned for its rich colors, surface richness, compact composition, and, most notably, its use of gold foil to create a dazzling effect. The primary subjects of Tanjore paintings are Hindu gods and goddesses, saints, and episodes from Hindu mythology. Tanjore painting is a distinctive and opulent art form that reflects the rich cultural and religious heritage of South India. Its combination of artistic skill, vibrant colors, and the use of gold foil creates a unique and enduring visual appeal.

Artwork: Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram

This exquisite artwork showcases the Shore Temple, a component of the renowned Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Built in the eighth century AD from granite blocks, the Shore Temple is celebrated for its architectural grandeur and intricate sculptures. Its pyramidal design, overlooking the Bay of Bengal, earned it the moniker "Seven Pagodas."

The depiction of the Shore Temple in this Tanjore painting harmonizes the architectural splendor of the temple with the opulent style of Tanjore art. The artist has meticulously portrayed the temple's distinctive features, including its tiered, pyramidal towers (vimanas) and detailed carvings. Bright colors with gold highlights emphasize the temple's divine and regal nature, creating a three-dimensional effect. This rich, vibrant, and detailed portrayal not only showcases the temple's magnificence but also adds a divine and artistic dimension to its representation. The artwork serves as a tribute to the cultural and spiritual heritage of South India, preserving the splendor of one of its iconic landmarks.

Artist: A. Anbu

A. Anbu, hailing from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, has been a dedicated practitioner in the field of art for approximately 25 years. Specializing in the Tanjore style of painting, Anbu has not only mastered this classical South Indian art form but also imparts his knowledge by training students. His deep-rooted passion for Tanjore painting and his commitment to preserving and promoting this rich cultural heritage are evident in his works. Anbu's artistry is characterized by vibrant colors, intricate compositions, and the use of gold foil, all of which contribute to the distinctive and opulent aesthetic of Tanjore paintings.

Location: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

