

MODERN ART – A BLEND OF CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES

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INTRODUCTION

Art has been used as a major tool to depict the life style and working culture of the contemporary societies. Since the inception of human species, it (art) evolved through different ages to the modern era and so the human race.

The Industrial Revolution begun in 18th century in Britain, by that time nobody knew how vast and how far this revolution will spread. It touched each and every aspect of life. With the rise of Industrial Revolution it became easy for everyone to travel miles in just few hours , travelling from one city to another was no more a issue to plan month's back .

Subsequent development of the locomotive and steamship in turn facilitated the shipment of raw materials and merchandise , made passenger travel easier and encouraged the growth the of the new cities . Displaced from their small farms and traditional cottage industries by technological developments in agricultural and manufacturing, the rural poor moved to the new factories and industries in search of employment to earn bread and butter. Many of them including children and women suffered miserable working and living condition. Although new government rules and policies talked about the rights of the deprived and poorly survived of the society but with the rise of revolution, exploitation of labourers by the capitalist factory owners and advocated communal or state ownership of the means of production and distribution. The most radical of these movements was communism, which called for the abolition of private property. But gradually, laws like equal work equal pay and equality for women, abolition and non encouragement of child labour leads to some settlement at the societal level.

NEED OF THE TOPIC

With the continuation in Industrial Revolution a great level of scientific discoveries led to telegraphs, telephones and radio systems. By the end of 19th century developments in chemicals industries leads to many discoveries in medicines, disinfectants, explosives etc. A major introduction of photographic chemicals not only brought a big change in lay man's life but it was another important impetus in the Art field. The question that thrilled many minds of art field was "Why perfect ancient methods of rendering a subject when a machine could do it almost as well?" So, the need of the technology that was the by product of Industrial revolution brought the modernization of the society. Parallel with photography art field was evolving with print making, which was the direct result of the rise and use of chemicals prepared in the factories in large amount, artists started innovating with different mediums or surfaces to present their art go hand in hand. It was a quantum leap in the use of technology so far , when art was the pride and status defining thing for many , that time technology redefined its definition and reached the market from bookseller shops or magazine strands . Art was now in the printed form and available for all where initially it was available only in the form of canvasses or on the walls and that too highly paid. Thousands of engraved editions on paper were running into the press with a large market of the buyers. The arrival of steel plates in the 1820's made much larger editions possible. Those more durable surfaces could print up to 10,000 copies without loss of quality. The technology advances that made possible the mass reproduction of photographs changed the equation radically near the end of the century.

After the superstructure of photography in the Art field, most of the artists rejected the traditional ways of painting. In place of the "official culture for representing art ", modern artist designed and created , what has been called as AVANT GARDE . This term actually directs to the forward approach in modern art field.

So, In19th century a school of art which was largely known as an Impressionist school of art rise and dominated the canvasses to portray the contemporary society. As a result of culmination of various industrial factors, revolutions up surged and influenced large part of the world particularly England. As England was ruling one most of the nations in the south east Asia, impact of industrial revolution become slightly visible in every aspect of life. Art was not an exception so, the style of art gradually started shifting to a new one.

Efforts from the rise of the industrial market at various levels were hitting and targeting the young minds of the artists to blend the technology with previous learning. Artists were struggling to the extreme with the anti modern practices at various levels. Their main struggle was to establish themselves with or without the acceptance of patrons of art or with non cooperation from the churches. These two concepts, rejection of tradition and the avant – garde, are the most important for understanding Modern art.

Despite the protests from conservative critics, the whole process of avant – garde did not happen all at once. It took decades to unfold the whole movement, it was logical, critical, threw out one after another rule to succeed upon logic based satisfaction. It wasn't a revolution but an evolution which turned and creates many paths towards the new beginning of critical thinking process in technology and its blend with learning of existential facts. It shunned many shops selling traditional but conventional methods which leads to show the supremacy and dictatorship either of the church or of the king. This period artists, who are generally called as the Post Impressionists, were the bridge makers, who took all the logic of the artists to new dimensions to create more logistical and relevant paintings. Photography was the key which opened the oxidised locks of the brain, to view the true colours present in the nature and in the surroundings.

CONCLUSION

This was the era where blending technologies influence the canvasses but also the mindsets of the layman and of the artists also. Art through ages has always been the replica of what society is being. But here what needs to be understood is that constructiveness has to be for the betterment of the self and for the society, than serving the self. Industrial revolution brought many changes and that too on mammoth scale but it swallowed many small scale industries and many traditional methods which were the livelihood of small cottage industries.

Whether it is blend of technology or of mindsets, always proved helpful if worked in the direction of the mankind.

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