

# **ARTS & FILMS** **APPRECIATION**

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## **INDIAN VIEW ABOUT AESTHETICS**

### *AESTHETICS AS SAUNDARYA SASTRA*

- Aesthetics in western is known as Saundra Sastra in Indian context.
- No branch of Indian philosophy developed under its nomenclature whatever is studied under the scope of Saundarya Sastra is not very different from western context. We have roots of aesthetics in ancient literature like Vedic texts highest spiritual bliss-aesthetic enjoyment.
- Saundarya means beauty, therefore calling a certain discipline a science of beauty, saundarya sastra limits it to only the enquiry of beauty. Aesthetics originally means a discourse on world presented to our senses and perception. Orderly and organised forms are revealed only in such world, aesthetic by derivation means discourse on beauty. Such forms are also found in man made artifacts and are not confined to objects in nature alone. Therefore, aesthetics is also a science and philosophy of art.
- Art is important because of its several functions like imitation of nature, representation of life or expression of feeling and so on.

### *INDIAN AESTHETICS*

Indian art has a unique identity of its own determined by its long cultural traditions and ideological grounds.

### *ABSTRACT NATURE OF PHILOSOPHY*

- Philosophy is an attempt to unravel mysteries experienced in life and curiosity to know the origin, nature, evolution, varieties, etc. The branches of philosophy called ethics, aesthetics, logic are involve in human values which are subjective in nature sciences are concerned with objective facts.
- There is a diversity of views in case of aesthetics. The aesthetics sensibility, attitude, taste and response in general to beauty and art are very personal and it is this difficult to use their subjective factors as basis of any theory.
- Nay theory of art is derived on the basis of the actual art practices and traditions in any society. Art influences the theory of art.

Nyaya vaisesika schools have given the explanation of world usig theory of atoms. For them everything is made of atomm, even mind is treated as atom. Only soul is not constituted by atoms and thus it has to maintain its alofness from the body with the help of proper knowledge for getting the liberation.

The Sankhya school is famousfor its theory of prakriti parianmanad which means that all things surrounding us are result of prakriti. The enjoyment of art is short-lived since the rajas and tamasdestroy it on account of predominance over Sattva. Thus sankhya has a pessimistic attitude. Sankhya concept of jivanmukti and videhmukti is more of nature of absence of oain rather than positive bliss and enjoyment.

*PLACE OF BEAUTY AND ART IN VEDIC, UPANISHADIC, AND LITERARY WORKS.*

- We come across reference to arts in Brahmana literature of Veda, and so also in Upanishads, Aranyakas and in Saiva literature.

## *REFERENCES TO ART*

- The earliest attempt to define art is found in some parts of the Aitōya Brahmana.
- Art is an activity of making something with a skill and rhythm.
- Rhythm has a wide connotation; it includes rhyming, regular beats, balance, proportion, harmony and so on.
- The term Silpa is more often used to indicate the activity performed with a skill and order. All activities like making utensils, instruments, garland etc. were included in silpa.
- During Vedic period, arts like singing and dancing came into existence in the process of performing the Yajnas.
- In the Saiva literature, Kala has been associated with that element which limits the perfection or purity of Atmanas there is connection in Kala and Kama, and until the self is not free from the desire for senseless pleasure, level of perfection cannot be reached.
- Kala – partial expression of the perfect.
- The artists to move from inward state of mind towards the external forms by giving objective expressions to subjective ideas or feelings. The view is in conformity with the expression theory of art, it can be called a movement from spiritual to physical.
- Artists get in tune with other minds through his creations.
- Kala was later divided into para and apara.

Apara or lower kind of arts seek expression of self into imperfect material forms.

Paravidya and Kala is ability to realise the perfect ananda state of supreme reality.

## *ART, AESTHETICS AND THEORY OF RASA*

A world famous dramaturgy, known as Natyasastra by Bharatmuni exposes the link between art and aesthetics enjoyment called rasa.

Art mentioned in this treatise music, dance, acting, drawing, etc. Literary composition-base of natya, therefore Kavya is an essential part of Natyasastra.

- Natayasastra gives an analysis of atge management and relationship between the particular emotion or bhava and the rasa it is capable of evoking.
- Essence of art is its connection with bhava or emotion, which are powerful means of moving a receipient through and providing thereby a unique and detached pleasure called rasa.
- The theory of rasa is as old as vedic literature, but its application to natya and kavya is revolutionary discovery ushered in by. Rasa theory became a connection to associate almost all arts with one or other kind of rasa.
- The job of reaching the soul of poetry was achieved by Rajasekhra who for the first time put his finger on the most important aspect of poetry, the power of imagination and

creativity of the poet. This led to discussion on relation between rasa and bhava.

- Anandvardhan contributed to the theory of dhvani to bring attention to various functions and powers suggesting different kind of meanings of words. Rasa dhvani- special way of using language in poetry to create vivid images of emotions.
- Sadharnikarana theory of Abhinavagupta
- Some important works- Vishnudharmottara Purana, Silpasastrum.
- Dr. Nirmala Jain- Rasa theory's pinnacle- soul of Indian aesthetics.

To know Indian aesthetics, one should have deep understanding of Indian culture, religion, philosophy, history and literature. In India, Silpa and Kala were used for all activities which used skill and do not correspond to the notion of craft and fine arts in any sense. In earliest times, activities like making utensils, weaving clothes etc. were referred to as Silpa. Which these arts developed, acquired capacity to entertain and fulfil desire for pleasure they were called Kala.

In India, arts have not been distinguished as utility and pure or fine arts as they are supposed to fulfil human requirements, social, psychological, moral or religion.

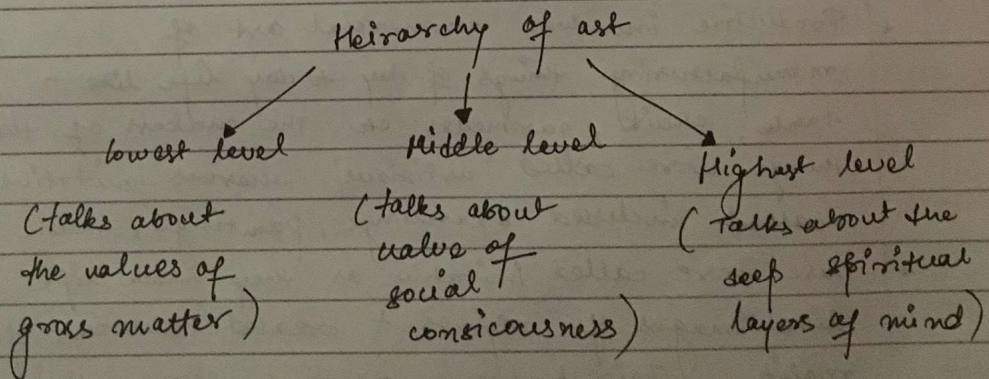
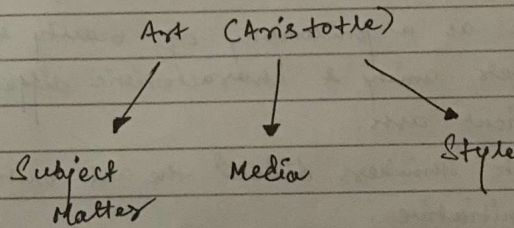
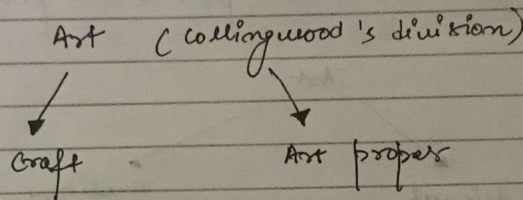
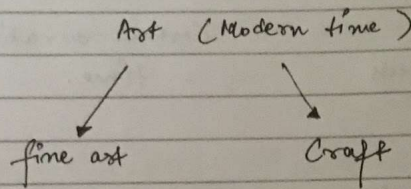
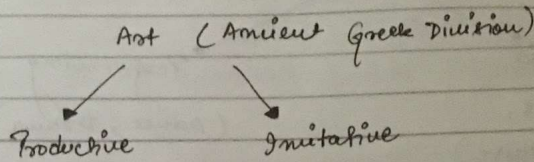
# COMPARISON OF ARTS

## NOTES

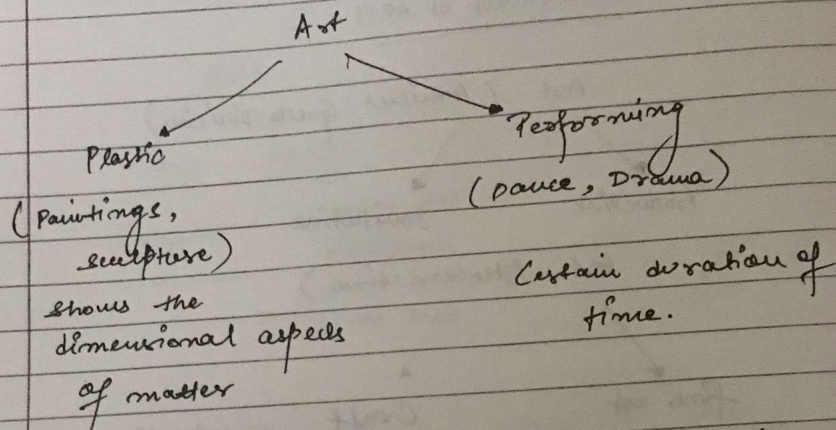
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Dunk Page - The Social Notebook

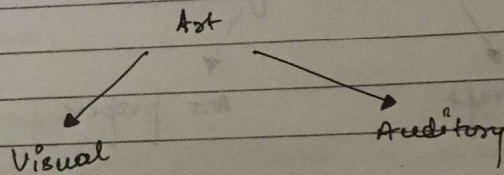
### COMPARISON OF ARTS







→ literature is neither plastic nor performing.



- + Aesthetic as a philosophy of beauty & art tries to discover unity & characteristic differences in various arts.
- + The Greek thinkers divided the art into productive and imitative.
- + Productive involves commercial art of manufacturing things of day to day life like - table, chair, garments etc. The makers of these things were called 'artisans' whereas imitative called included drawings, paintings, music etc.
- + These were called imitative as they made life like images of objects & created illusions of reality. Their purpose was not serve utility but was to provide enjoyment to the recipients by showing his skill by imitating nature.



- + However, the classification of art in ancient India followed a different structure.
- + The word like 'imitative' used by Greeks to denote pure aesthetic India followed a different structure.
- + The word like 'kala' corresponding to art in western context was suggested in the sense of skills.
- + In modern days art is generally categorised as
  1. Fine arts v/s Craft
  2. Pure arts v/s Applied arts.

#### FINE ARTS v/s CRAFT

- + The art which was referred as productive by Greek thinkers is recognised as "craft" and imitative art is recognised as "fine arts" of today.
- + The imitative art is not called imitative any more because the concept used by Greeks of copying the reality has undergone several changes and many more functions like representation and expression of emotions to have assigned to it.

#### SIMILARITIES

Both crafts + fine arts involve a skill in making something by moulding the objects according to some pre-conceived ideas and being goal-oriented. They needed designing and involves proper planning and handling of material.



## DISTINCTIONS

- \* Crafts are directly linked to the civilization of human societies. The development of civilization decides the quality & quantity of craft.
- \* Man requires several things for day-to-day life and has acquired better skills for manufacturing them but it is somewhere in middle of these useful things, he developed an artistic / aesthetic interest and started making things for pleasure of creating presentable appearance in this objective world. That is now fine arts was born.
- \* Thus, a craft is basically produced / valued for the purpose of utility & fine arts is valued for its potential to look beautiful, evoke emotions and represent values of rational life. For ex - A painting is valued as a work of art for its visual impact and the way it evokes emotional sensibilities in a person. As aesthetic joy & thrill which is generally caused by the presence of some objects with their outstanding forms and contents.
- \* Vigil C. Storch in his book "Philosophy of art" clarified the role of a craftsman and an artist pointing out that the ~~set~~ work of an artist begins where the work of craftsmen end.
- \* Another important ~~decision~~ distinction between crafts and fine arts is the aspect of relativity and absoluteness of the values belonging to them. The importance of crafts changes with social and



economic conditions of society. As many of things which were considered important in ancient and medieval period, holds just historical value in this age of technology for example - oil lamps.

- + This phenomenon of getting "out-of-date" and irrelevant is applicable for crafts not on the products of fine arts, as the work of art creates an influence on the mind of admirers of all ages and period. For example, The Homer or Valmiki, Shakespeare or Kalidasa - their compositions are considered as cultural heritage of our world.
- + Beauty is not relative value like utility which keeps on changing from time to time. The products of fine arts have an ~~are~~ sense of universality about them.
- + A craftsman needs skills in his work which can be developed with time and practice. The work of an artist also requires skills but it also requires creativity, imagination emotions etc.
- + Collingwood has a different criteria for classifying arts, as he puts it into craft and art proper. Art proper is spontaneous expression where as craft is an activity with pre-mediated ends.
- + John Dewey believes that classification of arts into 'fine arts' and 'crafts' due to incidental factors and not necessarily due to nature and motive of the activity.

## **PURE ART v/s APPLIED ART**

Art is also distinguished as pure art and applied art. The term applied suggests an application of some specialised knowledge on the production of these arts.

- The invention of camera is an applied art based on knowledge of technology pertaining to principles of light and functioning of eyes.
- The crafts and applied arts have one thing in common that they are both brought into existence for the purpose of utility. Their value is dependent on the degree of utility they serve.
- The success of crafts depends on the skills with which they are executed. But in the case of applied arts, one require not only skills but also, more developed the technology, more developed or progressive are products of applied arts.
- Pure arts are not different from fine arts. They are called pure when contrasted with applied arts. Fine arts are pure as they do not involves application of some other form of knowledge and are not created for some other purpose.
- The artist wants to express his inner aspirations and feelings in art and the urge to make aesthetic objects make him an artist and the desire to make useful objects.
- He is aloof from the practical world when he engages himself in these forms of art.

In a complex art like cinema, we can illustrate the nature and role of crafts, applied arts and fine and pure arts. The artisans who make sets for studio, dressmakers, make-up

men, etc. are craftsmen in the industry. The technicians operating the movies camera and control sound, vision etc. are the applied artists. The script writer, actors, directors, playback singers are the artists whose art pure and fine art, in nature applied for aesthetic purpose.

### **COMPARISON OF FINE ARTS**

According to Aristotle, arts are distinguished from one another on basis of their subject matter, media and style. Later on, a metaphysical principle was used to classify arts and display a hierarchy among them. In this hierarchy,

- The arts representing gross matter such as proportionate relation of part, symmetry, etc., showing formal unity, occupy the lowest level.
- Next comes arts representing the values conceived by social consciousness like painting, literature, drama, films, etc. These have capability of suggesting movement, action, etc.
- The highest level is represented by arts like lyrical poetry, music and dance which express deep spiritual layers of mind.

According, to another principle of classification, arts are classified as –

1. Plastic
2. Performing

- Plastic arts show dimensional aspects of matter like painting, sculpture, etc.
- Performing arts are performed during certain duration of time, like music, dance and drama.
- Literature is neither plastic nor performing art and constitutes a separate category of its own.

The arts can be categorized as visual and auditory arts, literature being an exception to both.

- Architecture, painting, dance, sculptures- examples of visual arts
- Music- purely auditory art
- Dance when joined with music is a mixture of both auditory and visual arts.
- Drama- complex art comprising visual, auditory and literary elements.
- Films – complex art and also includes a highly specialized technical knowledge of movie camera and other engineering scenes.

### **VISUAL ARTS**

- Architecture – it stands on borderline of applied and pure arts.
- It is an applied art based on technological science pertaining to construction of structure and basically serve utility purpose.



- In India, it is called Vastukala. Every architectural structure is a place of residence for all human beings.
- The forts, hospitals, buildings of educational institutions, office temples, factories, etc. are built to suit the function they are supposed to perform.
- It is an applied art when we take into account practical function associated with these structure.
- Architectural compositions can also be seen as objects of pure beauty and appreciated as highly organized forms. The parts are arranged in proportionate relations, harmony and balance.
- Example – Taj Mahal – constructed as a tomb by Shah Jahan in loving memory of his wife is remembered as a symbol of love, once can appreciate the beauty of tomb for its exquisite qualities of poise and dignity, symmetry, sparkling white marble. It can be appreciated as a work of art even without knowing its background.
- Architecture is also called a 'pure formal art' which is its unique and distinctive characteristic.

#### ❖ Sculpture

It also uses gross matter as its medium and transform it into meaningful shapes and forms.

- They have dimensions but not as vast as architectural units.
- Sculpture is a visual and spatial art having physical dimensions, thus is called plastic art.

#### ❖ Painting & Photography

- Painting is also a visual art, they have themes, contents and something to show from life. A painting is not meant for actual experiences.
- The medium of painting is not the gross matter.
- A photographer has to wait for an event to occur in order to capture it but that's not the case with painters as they can imagine whatever they want whenever they want.
- The painter has the freedom of creating their own objects and themes of painting. This freedom is not available in photography.

## **Question – Write a Movie Review.**

### **GONE GIRL**

#### **INTRODUCTION –**

Gone Girl is a 2014 American psychological thriller film directed by David Fincher and with a screenplay by Gillian Flynn based on her 2012 novel of the same title. The film stars Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike, Neil Patrick Harris, and Tyler Perry. Set in Missouri, the story begins as a mystery that follows the events surrounding Nick Dunne (Affleck), who becomes the prime suspect in the sudden disappearance of his wife Amy (Pike).

#### **PLOT -**

Nick Dunne returns home after receiving a call from his neighbour to only find his wife Amy missing, and other objects out of their place. Following which the police begins the investigation led by

detective Rhonda Boney. The case becomes popular among media as Amy was no regular person she was the writer of a bestselling magazine called "Amazing Amy". Suspicion mounts around Nick, whose apathy is interpreted by the media as characteristic of a sociopath and even sows doubt in his twin sister Margo. The movie has such a plot that the story is presented with a mixture of excerpts from their past as well as their present lives.

Past times majorly consists of the happy times and how they met, Amy later revealed to Nick that Amazing Amy was a perfected version made up of the real Amy's failures. Unfortunately, the happy times were short-lived as both the husband and wife lose their jobs and have to return to Missouri where they begin with a new life. Nick became lazy and distant and began cheating on Amy with Andie Fitzgerald, one of his students.

Forensic analysis of the house uncovers cleaned bloodstains, indicating a probable murder. Boney unearths evidence of financial troubles, domestic disputes, and Amy's recent willingness to purchase a gun. Medical reports indicate that Amy is pregnant, of which Nick denies knowledge. Amy and Nick had played treasure hunt games on every wedding anniversary; this year's clues include profligate items purchased with Nick's card, as well as a diary highlighting Amy's growing isolation and ominously ending with the fear that Nick will kill her.

Amy is showed to be alive and well and running away from Missouri after she herself planned her murder and had framed it in such a way that all the evidences were pointing the finger

towards her husband Nick Dunne. She did so to take revenge from Nick because he was cheating on her, she fabricated a long-standing diary that was accurate in its early entries but later evolved into false accounts of spousal violence and her increasing fear of Nick. She befriended a pregnant neighbour, told her fake stories about Nick's temper, and stole her urine for the pregnancy test. She planted corroborating evidence of Nick's guilt in the clue spots for the "treasure hunt" for the police to find. Before disappearing, she drained her own blood, splattered it across the kitchen, and cleaned it haphazardly. She anticipated that Nick would be convicted and executed for her murder and contemplated committing suicide after his conviction.

Nick deduces Amy's plan and convinces Margo of his innocence. He flies to New York and meets Tanner Bolt, a lawyer known for representing men accused of killing their wives. Nick also meets Amy's ex-boyfriend Tommy O'Hara, who says that Amy had falsely accused him of rape, planting evidence around his house and forcing him to register as a sex offender to avoid jail. Nick approaches another ex-boyfriend, the wealthy Desi Collings, against whom Amy previously filed a restraining order, but Desi refuses to share any details.

When Amy gets in some trouble and is looted she calls Desi Collings and tells him how she was tortured by Nick Dunne and has ran away from there Desi Collings gives a place to stay. During the same time Nick's lawyer Tanner suggests him to go on air and tell Amy to come back home where ever she is after seeing the video Amy plans Desi Collings murder and return to Nick saying that she was kidnapped and raped multiple times by

Desi Collings and could escape yesterday only after she murdered his with a cutter in defense when he was again harassing her.

While the world accepts this sob story by Amazing Amy only Nick, Margo, Tanner & detective Rhonda Boney know the actual truth. But they cannot prove it to the world and hence Nick is forced by Amy to continue living with her and if done otherwise will face consequences.

### **REVIEW –**

Gone Girl can be referred to as one of the best movies of its genre, the thriller is presented with so many twists and turns that it'll always keep the audience hooked, neither the events are taking place at a slow pace and hence one cannot afford to miss even a second the story.

When Amy is kidnapped by Desi Collings, her wealthy ex-boyfriend, and locked up in his castle-like lake house, we get an old-style Gothic plot of female imprisonment. When it's revealed that Amy has framed Nick, we get a classic tale about a manipulative, wicked woman who traps a hapless man in her web.

It somewhat also deals with the issue on how easily a man can be framed for murder or rape and all it takes is a word from the victim. And how media contributes a lot in framing ones image in the mind of people and criticises the way media concludes a case even before a court verdict is announced.

Unlike a lot of movies this one doesn't have a happy ending as Nick is forced to continue with a sociopath who can go to any extent for what she wants and hence is always at a risk. Well, I hope he never pisses her off again.

## **CENSORSHIP**



## Arundhati Roy

He has always been in controversy because of the various statements she's made about the Indian government. Some of her most controversial statements are: "Kashmir has never been an integral part of India. It's a historical fact and the world has accepted that."

"I perceive women (readers) as people who have the most influence and in the backbone of various movements that exist in the cities, in the plains and in the forests."

"I'm on the side of love. I do not care who gets hurt in a fight."

Arundhati Roy is a prize-winning Indian novelist.

## DAN BROWN - DA VINCI CODE

Da Vinci code is a 2003 mystery thriller novel by Dan Brown. The novel explores an alternative religious history, whose central point is that the Merovingian kings of France were descended from the bloodline of Jesus Christ. The novel caught everyone's attention and was in controversy because of the theories put forth by Dan Brown, which states that the Holy Grail is not a cup but a person (Mary Magdalene), that Jesus Christ was married to Mary, they had a child, that Christ's descendants are walking the Earth today & that the Catholic Church covered up the truth about Christ's marriage for nearly 2,000 years.

## PADMAAVAT

Padmaavat is a 2018 Indian Hindi-language epic period drama film directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, loosely based on the epic poem Padmaavat by Malik Muhammad Jayasi. The film became controversial during production. Several Rajput caste organisations including Shri Rajput Karni Sena and its protested and later vandalised the film sets claiming that the film portrays Padmaavati, a Rajput queen, in bad light. The release date of the film was also shifted & later the film was banned in some states as well.

## UDTA PUNJAB

Udta Punjab is a 2016 Indian black comedy crime film co-written & directed by Abhinav Shukla. It is based on and revolves around the drug abuse by the youth population in the Indian state of Punjab. The movie faced problem with the censorship board & was asked to make 89 cuts initially. It was perceived by people as a movie which was defaming Punjab.

