

## ABSTRACT

Art of Modern India has witnessed a blossoming by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A dynamic style began to take over with various influences both from the West and indigenous sources as well. Along with these developments came different groups of artists and by the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, abstract artists also began to emerge. Reflecting influences from the West as well as maintaining their Indian identity, these artists came up with different approaches to abstraction. Their works manifest a rich interplay of pure colors and forms which are non-representational. Some of the most prominent abstractionists were post-independence artists such as K.C.S. Paniker, V.S. Gaitonde, Ram Kumar, Laxman Shreshtha, and Prabhakar Kolte. All of these artists although essentially abstract artists, they all had their own background and unique way of approach to their principles of abstraction.

The current study takes into account various relevant philosophies and doctrines of art and aesthetics of various eras starting from Greek philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle, 18<sup>th</sup> century German philosophers such as Kant and Hegel to the 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophers such as Croce along with significant figures from the Indian context such as Coomarswamy, Rabindranath Tagore, and Abanindranath Tagore.

The spiritual characteristics of abstract art would prove to result in a universal visual language which does not limit itself to one particular culture, society, race, tradition, or religion. Such universal characteristics would manifest itself in the form of pure and independent patterns of colors, and avoidance of figures which pertains to one specific culture and tradition. Therefore, color would also become one of the most important features of abstract paintings. Whether, the color performs as an expressionistic manifestation of emotions and intuitions or an imitation of certain sensuous or super-sensuous elements begs the question of whether what the true unique nature of abstraction is for each artist. Philosophical perspectives on art and aesthetics would help to provide much of such factors in question. The purely formal play of colors adopted by some various abstract artists would have much more deeper philosophical backgrounds which reveal their deeper connection with pure forms which are largely prevalent in abstract art.