

Syllabus for PhD (Fine-Arts) Entrance Examination for Applicants with/without Fine Arts Background

Candidates with Fine-Arts background are advised to refer to the “Part I” of this document whereas the candidates without Fine-Arts background should refer to “Part II.”

Part I

For Candidates with Fine Arts Background

01 Fine Art Techniques and Technology

Traditional and Modern materials and media in visual arts: painting, sculpture, printmaking, mural, graphic design and multimedia practice. Inventions, adaptations and development of these materials and media from the pre-historic period to present-day worldwide.

Procedures used in making painting, sculpture, printmaking, mural, graphic design and multimedia art, such as modelling, carving, building, casting, different way of handling pigments (impasto, glazing, drip and others), intaglio, relief, surface printing, fresco buono, fresco secco and software and digital tools of image, audio and video processing.

02 Art History & Art Criticism

i) Indian Sculpture: Formal and stylistic aspects of sculpture from the Indus Valley, Mauryan era, Sunga, Satavahana, Kushana (Mathura and Gandhara), Gupta (Buddhist, Brahmanical and Jain), Chalukya, Pallava, Chola, Rashtrakuta, Hoysala, Pala-Sena, Vijayanagara and Nayaka.

ii) Indian Painting: Formal and stylistic aspects of pre-historic, Ajanta, Bagh and later mural traditions, Manuscript painting (Eastern and Western Indian), Chourapanchasika style, Mughal School (Akbar to Shahjahan), Rajasthani (Mewar, Bundi, Kotah, Bikaner, Jaipur and Kishangarh), Malwa, Pahari (Basholi, Guler, Kangra) and Deccani (Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Golkonda) schools.

iii) Pre-Modern and Modern Indian Art: Company School, Bazar Painting, British Colonial Art Schools, Raja Ravi Varma and followers. Neo-Bengal School (‘Revivalism’ and early modernists); Major Artists: Abanindranath Tagore and disciples, Nandalal Bose, Benode Behari Mukherjee, Ramkinkar Baij, Rabindranath Tagore, Gaganendranath Tagore and Jamini Roy. Role of Santiniketan School in art education.

Academic / Professional sculptors and painters: Mahatre, Talim, D.P. Roy Choudhuri, Dhurandar and Hemen Majumdar.

Early Indian Modernist artists: Amrita Shergil and Karmarkar.

Art in 1940’s and 50’s: Bengal famine and artists (Somnath Hore, Chittaprasad, Zainul Abedin, Gobardhan Ash and Sudhir Khastgir); Progressive artists groups in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Delhi (K. H. Ara, M. F. Hussain, F. N. Souza, Krishe Khanna and V. S. Gaitonde).

International Modernism and artists: Pradosh Dasgupta, B.C. Sanyal, Dinkar Kaushik, Nirode Majumdar, Paritosh Sen, Akbar Padamsee, Ramkumar and others.

Other Artists: N.S. Bendre, K.K. Hebbar, Shankho Choudhuri, Krishna Reddy, Dhanraj Bhagat, Y.K. Shukla, Pilloo Poochkhawala, V.S. Gaitonde and Davierwala.

Art in 1960's and 70's: Indigenous trends in painting, sculpture, mural and printmaking: K. G. Subramanyam, K. C. S. Panikkar and Cholamandal artists village, Reddappa Naidu, S.B. Palsikar, Janaki Ram, Meera Mukherjee, Jyoti Bhatt, J. Swaminathan and Neo-Tantric art among others.

Figurative-Narrative trend since 1960's: Bikash Bhattacharjee, Ganesh Pyne, A. Ramachandran, Gulam Mohammed Sheikh, R.B. Bhaskaran, Lakshma Goud, Jogan Choudhuri, Bhupen Khakhar, Anjole Ela Menon, Arpita Singh, Gogi Saroj Pal, Arpana Kaur and Vivan Sundaram.

Trend of Abstraction since 1960's: Raghav Kaneria, Jairam Patel, P. Barwe, Ram Kumar, L. Munnuswamy, P. V. Kolte, Jagmohar Chopra, Balbir Singh Katt, Nagji Patel.

iv) Western Art (From Pre-Historic Art to Contemporary period): Pre-historic art (France and Spain), Greek, Roman, Early Christian, Byzantine, Gothic, Renaissance, Mannerism, Baroque, Neo-Classicism, Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Symbolism, Fauvism, Cubism, Expressionism, Futurism, Dadaism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Op-Art, Pop-Art, Minimalism, Performance, Installation, Land art, New media and Digital art.

V) Art Criticism: Distinctions and overlap between the scope of Art History, Art Criticism, and Aesthetic theories. Interrelationship between Art History, Anthropology, Archaeology, Cultural History and Philology. Development of Art Criticism as a discipline. Connoisseurship and catalogue raisonne. Western and Indian approaches in Art Criticism.

03 Art History & Aesthetics

a) Indian Aesthetics: General principles of Indian art, art and beauty, principles of image-making (iconography, iconometry and other canons), six limbs of Indian painting (shadanga), theories of Rasa, Dhvani, Alankara, Auchitya and Riti, and their relevance in understanding art-making and viewing; Classification of painting in Chitrasutra; Concepts of Kshyavridhi, Guna-Dosha, Sadrishya, Vartana, Nimnonata, etc; Visible and invisible aspects of art (Drishyam / Adrishyam), Rekha (Line) and Linear rhythm; Compositional aspects of art; Perspective, form and content.

Western approaches to art and aesthetics: Plato, Aristotle, Alberti, Vasari, Bellori, Reynolds, Diderot, Wincklemann, Croce, Tolstoy, Riegl, Panofsky, Baxandall, Benjamin, Mitchell and others; Writing by artists and manifestos of modern art movements; Theory of Avant-Garde; Implication of theories of Semiotics, Structuralism, Poststructuralism, Postmodernism, Feminism and Postcolonial perspectives on Art appreciation and writing.

Part II

For Candidates without Fine-Arts Background

1. History of Indian Art: Prehistoric, Mohenjodaro, Indus Valley, Maurya, Shunga, Kushana, Satavahanas, Chalukya, Rashtrakuta, Chola, Individualism, Modern Sculpture.

Notable Artists: Ramkinkar Baij, Pradosh Dasgupta, Palsikar, Panikar, J. Swaminathan, Jankiram, Shankho Choudhuri, Satish Gujral, Sankho Choudhary, Biren De, Nagji Patel, Meera Mukhejee, Jeram Patel, Niranjana Pradhan, Sushen Ghosh, Sarbari Roychowdhury, Somenath Hore, Balbir S. Katt, Ved Nayar, Mahendra Pandya, Raghav Kaneria, etc.

2. Indian Pre-Modern and Modern Art: British colonial painting; Bengal School; Santiniketan School; Academic Realism and the establishment of Art colleges in colonial India; Progressive artists groups in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Delhi. Styles and schools of Indian modern art. Problems of Indian contemporary Art.

Notable Indian Artists and their contribution to the field of art: Abanindranath Tagore, Gagnendranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose, Jamini Roy, Amrita Shergil, Rabindranath Tagore, Binod Bihari Mukherjee, Nirod Majumdar, N. S. Bendre, Dhanraj Bhagat, Sudhir Khastgir, Chitta Prasad, Hemen Majumdar, K.G. Subbhrmainayan, Paritosh Sen, Ganesh Paine, Ganesh Haloi, Bikash Bhattacharya, Prokash Karmakar, Ramananda Bandhopadhyay, Suhas Roy and Sanat Kar.

3. Major Stylistic Development in Western paintings and Sculptures: Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, Futurism, Dadaism, Abstract Expressionism, Surrealism, European American contemporary art.