



19th CENTURY INDIAN MODERN PAINTER - MOHAN SAMANT

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ABSTRACT

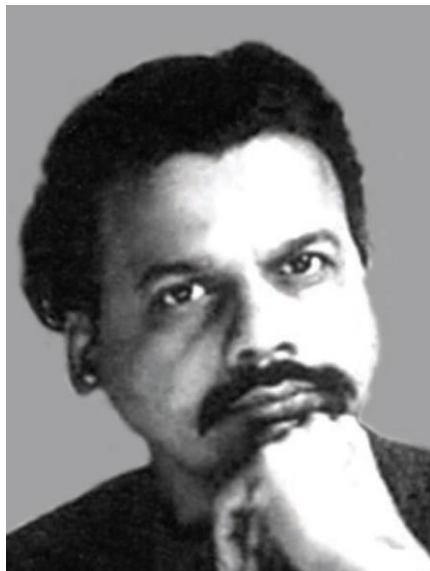
Mohan Samant was born in Mumbai in 1929. He received his education at the Sir J.J. School of Art, Mumbai in the 1950s. Mohan Samant was a teacher at Shankar Palshikar Sir's School of Art during his academic period. Mohan Samant excelled in music along with painting. Mohan Samant achieved as much proficiency in playing the musical instrument Sarangi as he did in painting. Mohan Samant preferred to be artist rather than being musician. Mohan Samant's painting method was considered modern at that time in India. At that time, he was considered one of the Indian modern artists. Mohan Samant's paintings show a deep influence of Hindu mythology, ancient Egyptian paintings and their components. In his early phase, Mohan Samant used Mughal miniatures, Jain manuscript paintings, their symbols, components, human figures, etc. Mohan Samant's Relief Work (painting) is seen to be made using various mixed media. He became a member of the Progressive Art Group in 1952, which had a significant contribution in the early development of Indian modern painting. M.F. Hussain, Raza, Souza, Ara, Gade, and others were also members of the Progressive Art Group at that time.

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INTRODUCTION



In 1959, Mohan Samant received the John D. Rockefeller III Fund Fellowship. Due to the fellowship, Mohan Samant went to New York in 1960. After that, Mohan Samant stayed there until 1964 and never returned to India. Thereafter, his entire painting career until 2004 took place in New York. But even while living abroad, the impression and influence of Indian culture is visible in his paintings. While in India, Mohan Samant visited many historical places in India and studied and understood the art of those historical places. In 1957-58, he received a prestigious Italian Government Scholarship which provided him a chance to stay in Rome for a few months. During this period, he held many international art exhibitions. While working in New York he exhibited his Art work in renewed

gallery named World House Gallery, which made him receive worldwide recognition for his work.



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Title: The Warriors_1990

Medium: Acrylic, Oil, Sand & Wire Drawings on Canvas

Size: 172.7 cm X 213.4 cm

Mohan Samant used materials like mixed media in his artwork. Metal wire, various types of color, various types of textured canvas, sand, paper cutouts, board, plaster, acrylic oil, various toys, etc. in his artwork to create many artworks.

Mohan Samant created many artworks very skilfully and proficiently in many art forms of Painting, Murals, Sculpture, Drawing. Many different subjects have been embodied in the paintings using first- and second-class color very poignantly.

Mohan Samant's was greatly influenced by Vikarsh Chali stage show which made use of leather puppets from Andhra Pradesh and the Wayan shadow puppets from Indonesia.



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Title: Cortez in Inca Land_1988

Medium: Acrylic, Oil, Sand & Wire Drawings on Canvas

Size: 172.72 cm X 213.36 cm

CONCLUSION

Mohan Samant was such an Indian painter who, while living abroad, spread Indian ancient art all over the world. He studied many mythological and ancient art styles like Indian miniature painting style, murals, Buddhist art style and created many new art styles of his own and presented them to the world. Due to this, it would not be wrong to say that he started the Indian modern art of the 1950s-90s decade. Mohan Samant crossed the traditional boundaries of painting methods and embodied many new experiments in his paintings. Mohan Samant brought a new art style into existence by combining sculpture, mural and painting. Mohan Samant's art style received prominent recognition by many art galleries in India and around the world as well.

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