

Keating's Essay on the Artwork at Mughal Court in India

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Keating's Study of Mughal Court Art

Keating is one of the long-time essay writers who wrote about paintings in European artworks and Technology. This paper seeks to review Keating's essay on the artwork at the Mughal court in India. (Metropolitan Museum of Art, n.d.) The main objects in Keating's essay are the Jahangir entertains Abbas painting, the Diana automation painting and the mechanical Galleon painting.

Diana Automation and Cross-Cultural Movement

Keating mainly wrote her essay based on the paintings mentioned in the Mughal court. It, however, goes deeper into Diana's automation, given that it originated from Northern Europe and how possibly this painting moved to the Mughal court in India.

Movement of Mechanical Art Objects

Diana's automation painting is currently in Mughal India despite its production in North Europe. It is believed that the painting moved through space and time, translation and even appropriation in the form of a painted image in Mughal. According to Keating, objects are moved by someone or people in authority. She says they were transported by a collection of driven gears, springs and wheels, which were assembled by a clockmaker. She believes the automata were crafted in Augsburg, where they were recurrently commissioned by German Emperors, dukes, bishops and electors. The automata were considered mobile, and they were moved by European emperors, merchants, and missionaries across the world over time. It was during this time that German merchants funded many Portuguese expeditors to India to acquire trade permits without taxes, being that India was rich in pepper germs and spices. This succeeded, and German agents started moving to India to ship goods back to their country. In the process, they developed a good rapport, and sooner rather than immediately, they started trafficking paintings or printed materials and curiosities from their country to India. A time came when Cron made contact with traders who had direct contact with the Mughal court. It was through them that the merchants delivered to Jahangir court presents, which mainly consisted of paintings from Europe plus the automata.

Transformation of Art Across Cultures

Due to the movement of these objects across space and time, they acquired new identities, functions and values due to cross-cultural mobility. Metamorphosis, which is the transformation of a thing from a dimensional outlook to another present accent, changes over time. From this, Keating argues that mutability and consistency over time make objects also transform into different things altogether from their parts. Automata were made to be presented as gifts at large feasts organized by royal families. Diana automata was used mainly in drinking games where the head stag would be removed then filled with wine, it was then wound and set to the table where the person to who the object stopped was to drink all its content. The objects portrayed different meanings because of transcultural differences. Like the Diana automata in Mughal, it was used as an ascertaining maker of Khan.

Hybrid Art and Contemporary Technology

Hybrid itself refers to the mixing of commodities to come up with one quality object at the end. Hybrid in application to the modern world is a present-day art movement where artists work in limited science areas of science and trending technology. Modern-day artistic work has been specialized in that we have different categories from which one can pick and work. From the two readings, we realize there are three examples of hybrid arts in existence. The first hybrid art is juxtaposition hybrid art. The second example of hybrid art is the synthesis of hybrid art and, lastly, the transformation of hybrid art. Juxtaposition hybrid art basically involves a combination of two clearly distinct art forms to come up with one having qualities of the two art forms. Synthesis hybrid art, on the other hand, can be described as a fusion of two or more forms of art to come up with one art form with qualities from all the art forms used. Transformation hybrid art, on the other side, involves the evolution of one art to another. It is where one art form changes from one state to another through time immemorial.

Cultural Combination in Hybrid Art

Hybrid art combines different art cultures in various ways to conceive better artistic strands. Combining artwork incorporates many objects put together to form a canvas surface, hence making a hybrid between the sculpture and the painting. Forming hybrid art explores the boundaries of art and different cultures in the everyday world. Hybrid arts result in various objects which are more complex. Since the combination involves the addition of one or more elements to form one, the resulting creature is more diverse and complex than others. The combination of these items, therefore, results in an art superior to the initial inputs.

Evaluation of Keating's Argument

In summary, Jessica Keating explores the history of artwork in Europe and parts of Asia. She majored in the Mughal court in India, where it was proven that artworks from different parts of the world were found. (Thapar, 2002) She explores the movement and the possible ways through which arts from Europe to the Mughal court in India. She also talks of the changes in the meaning of the arts due to cultural differences between races. The Andean Hybrid Baroque also talks of the hybridity of artwork and culture. The book talks of the different types of art alongside Jessica Keating and later explores how culture combines.

References

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