

**Artistic Exploration in Scientific Research And Technology**  
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**Lecture -13**  
**Warli Understanding the Technique**

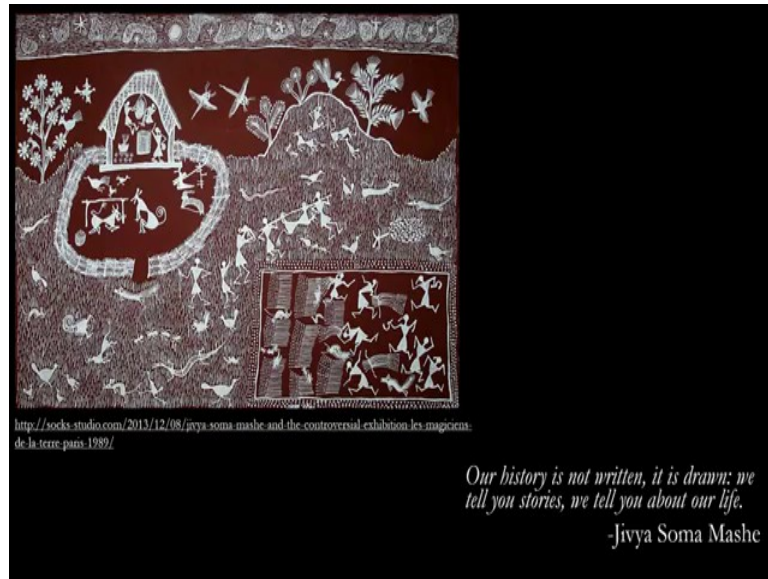
Hello friends, in the last two classes we have seen the techniques of two art forms of India, the Madhubani from Bihar and Gond art of Madhya Pradesh. In today's class let's go towards the west and see the Warli art form of Maharashtra.

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So, this is how the Warli art is done. The walls of the houses of the Warli tribe are painted with this art form and more often an art it is always a mud color wall on which the white color figures are made. So, this is how the traditionally the Warli tribe used to decorate their households.

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Jivya Soma Mashe who unfortunately passed away last year is a very renowned Warli artist. According to him our history is not written, it is drawn we tell you stories we tell me about our life. So, the Warli art is actually the history of the people the Warli people and these are not written in words, but they are drawn this is how they present this is what you think about the art form the Warli art form. This is a very beautiful art work done by Jivya Soma Mashe who was showing the village life.

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Historians believe that the Warli tradition can be traced back to as far as the Neolithic period between 2,500, BC to 3,000 BC. The Warli painting was discovered by the world as late as the seventh decade of the last century. The word "Warli" come from the word 'Warla' which means the piece of land. Warli tribe resides near base of ranges of Sahyadri mountains. They build their square bamboo huts coated with mud and cow dung and these mud walls are painted at the time of ritual functions and marriage ceremony. Warli tribe is fond of folk art and they worship god, goddess and ritual culture too. They depict their traditional lifestyle and their customs and traditions through this art of painting. Women are mainly engaged in the creation of these paintings. Warli art is known for its monochromatic depictions that express the folk life of socio-religious customs, imaginations and beliefs. These painting do not depict social life. Images of human beings and animals, along with scenes from daily life are created in a loose rhythmic pattern. The Warli tribe survive on forest produce and worship nature. The name of the clan has given the name to the art form.

Historians believe that Warli tradition can be traced back to as far as the Neolithic period between 2500 BC to 3000 BC. The Warli painting was discovered by the world as late as a 7th decade of the last century to that is only in the 70s we have the world has been open to the Warli art but it is as old as the Neolithic period.

The word Warli comes from the word Warla which means piece of land. Warli tribe resides near base of ranges of Sahyadri Mountains. They build their square bamboo huts coated with mud and cow dung and this mud walls are painted at the time of ritual functions and marriage ceremonies.

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These painting do not depict, so these paintings do not depict social life this painting actually depict social life, but not religious themes. Images of human beings and animals along with scenes from daily life are created in a loosed rhythmic pattern. The Warli tribe survive on forest produce and worship nature, the name of the clan has been has given the name of the art form. So, we see that during auspicious occasion Warli tribe paint their house with this kind of painting and the tribe the name of the tribe gives the name of 2D art form.

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## Shapes in Warli Painting

Warli painting are usually done using fewer characters repeated in cascading or continuous patterns. The basic characters used in Warli painting are:

- Circle – representation of the sun and the moon
- Triangle – derived from their observation of hills and mountains
- Square – considered to be a sacred enclosure

Shapes in Warli painting; Warli paintings are usually done using fewer characters repeated in cascading or continuous pattern. The basic characters used in Warli paintings are the circle represent the sun and the moon the triangle derived from their observation of hills and mountains square considered to be a scared enclosure. So, when you see a square, it is supposed to represent a sacred space which is a distinct from the other space in the painting.

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## Themes in Warli Painting

Warli paintings were done during times of festivities and unlike many other folk art forms of India, they do not depict God and deities. Warli art is mostly illustration of day-to-day activities of the tribes.

Warli paintings generally are based on following themes:

- Festival
- Harvest
- Marriage

Themes Warli paintings; Warli paintings done during times of festivities and unlike many other folk art form of India they do not depict gods and deities. So, this is one distinction uniqueness in the Warli painting, that unlike what we have we have seen before like the Madhubani painting of Mithila region or other paintings of different regions of the country. Here in Warli painting you do not see gods and goddesses too often, it more often than not it depicts the social life social customs of the Warli tribe.

Warli art is mostly illustration of day to day activities of the tribe. Warli painting generally are based on the following themes festival, harvest, marriage. So, Warli paintings talk about or they depict or they represent the daily life of the Warli tribe and they talk about the festivals the harvest festival the marriages of the tribe.

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So, this is one rendition of the festival, you can see how the concentric lines are used and how the dancers are shown. In between there is a person who is playing a big trumpet like thing that is called the Tarpa. The dancers are actually represent that the Tarpa dance of the Warli tribe where the dancers hold each others hand and make chains. This is actually represented in this painting. You can see the hut, you can see other musical instrument look at the drum here, look at other drum here. So, others also playing some other instruments here and a central dancer playing that Tarpa instrument.



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So, this is a harvest scene, after the harvest is done there is lots of food in everyone's household and how they are being stocked up (Refer Time: 06:29) here, the husk is being removed, this is the harvest scene which you will find quite commonly in Warli painting.

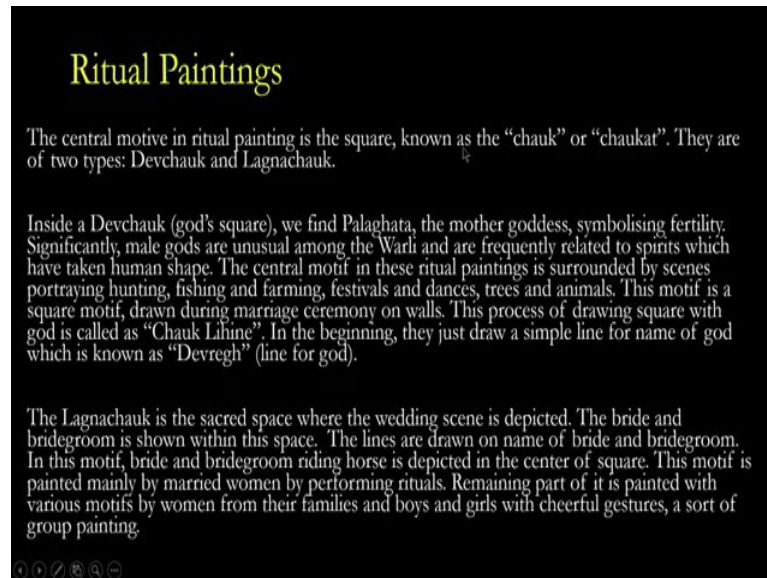
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This is a marriage scene, here you will see the bride here, the bride groom, and here is actually the deity the local deity. And this space is represented the space is marked with

a distinct of geometrical pattern and this is supposed to video scared space within the entire space.

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Ritual paintings; the central motive in ritual painting is the square known as the chawk or chaukat they are of two types, their Devchawk and Lagnachawk. So, in Warli painting you will find some like this one, there is a distinct space marked out by making a square and that is supposed to represent something its either a Lagnachawk or a Devchowk .

Inside a Devchawk that is gods square we find Palaghata the mother goddess symbolising fertility, significantly male gods are unusual among the Warli and are frequently related to spirits which have taken human shape. The central motif in these ritual paintings is surrounded by scenes portraying, hunting, fishing and farming festivals and dances trees and animals.

This motif is a square motif drawn during marriage ceremony on walls, this process of drawing square with god is called as Chawk Lihine in the beginning they just draw simple line for name of god which is known as Devregh. Then the second ritual painting is the Lagnachawk; the Lagnachawk is the sacred space with wedding scene is depicted.

The bride and bridegroom is shown within the space, the lines are drawn on name of bride and bridegroom. In this motif bride and bridegroom riding horse is depicted in the centre of the square, this motif is painted mainly by married women by performing

rituals. Remaining part of the of it is painted with various motifs by women from families and boys and girls with cheerful gesture a sort of group painting.

So, the main part of the Lagnachauk is drawn by the married women and the other part might be drawn by other younger people to show happy gestures. There are two kinds of ritual painting one is a Devchauk and the Lagnachauk one is related to god which is who is the goddess of fertility and second is related to marriages.

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So, this is an example of a Devichowk where the within the square the god goddess of fertility is represented and in the other in remaining part figures of happy occasions are depicted.



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This is an example of Lagnachauk, where the bride and bridegroom represented within the square and in the other remaining part festivity or dances or happy occasions are represented. And the bride and the bridegroom riding a horse is very typical in the Lagnachauk painting.

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### Raw material used

The Warli tribe do the paintings on mud walls of their own houses. Designs are never traced or drawn. Design is directly painted on walls with wooden stick. Background of design is earthen colour or reddish colour. The material traditionally used in these paintings is rice powder, which supposedly processes magical power, and it is believed that this can scare away the evil spirits. Many of the drawings are without an image, figure or narration but have consistent and continuous geometry. The visual effect of these symbolic shapes is at one with their efficiency and irregular strokes of brush or stick, firmness of style, uneven, non rhythmic or repetitive forms are not deformities but the distinctive traits of this art. For the painting, the wall is prepared with cow dung, a rectangular part of the wall was given a coating of geru (red mud). When this dries up, a brownish red surface is created. The colours are not permanent but the paintings are made again and again on different occasions. Colours of the Warli painting background are Henna, indigo, ochre, black, earthy mud, brick red and white made of rice paste to paint, occasionally yellow and red dots accompany white colour. They use a bamboo stick chewed at one end to make it as flexible as paintbrush. They also use thin reed like pens for painting made up of sticks broken from Baharu tree. With the help of these pens or brushes and rice paste they paint on the surface.

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traditionally used in this painting is rice powder, which supposedly possesses magical power and is believed that this can scare away evil spirits.

So, the usage of rice powder is very typical and it has a believe that the rice powder has magical qualities and it has the power to ward away evil eyes. So, that is why rice powder is used on the walls. Many of the drawings are without any image figure on narration, but have consistent and continuous geometry, some in some painting it might not be telling you any story, but it might just be geometrical patterns and it might be just repeated pattern done on the canvas or the wall.

Visual effect of these symbol shape is at one with the their efficiency and irregular strokes of brush or sticks style, firmness of style uneven non rhythmic and repetitive forms are not deformities, but their the distinctive traits of this art. So, if you see some deformation or some unevenness, its not a flawed, its not considered a flaw, its not considered as a drawback of the artist, but the deformity or the unevenness actually is a human character and this does not take away the finest of the painting.

For the painting the wall is prepared with cow dung, a rectangular part of the wall was given a coating of geru red mud. So, the first the wall is given a cow dung coating then red with that after that red mud coating is done. When this dries rise up a brownish red surface is created, the colours are not permanent, but the paintings are made again and again in different occasions.

So, the walls because the Warli tribe paint this the Warli painting on different auspicious occasion, the colours and not permanent, but they fade away with time so, that they can use the wall again for some other auspicious occasion. Colours of the Warli painting background are henna, indigo, ochre, black, earthy mud, brick, red and white made of rice paste to paint, occasionally yellow and red dots accompany white dots.

This use they use a bamboo stick chewed at one end to make it as flexible as a paint brush. So, a bamboo stick is chewed so, that it becomes like a paintbrush. They also use thin reed like pen pens for painting made up of sticks broken from Baharu tree with the help of these pens or brushes and rice paste they paint on the surface.

So, this is how the painting is done, first the surface is prepared by using a layer of cow dung, then another layer of geru mud that is a red mud is quoted, then over that with

using a bamboo stick chewed to make it look like make it work like a brush is done and with the rice paste the painting is done on the wall. So, this is how the process is done.

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### Characteristics of Warli Art

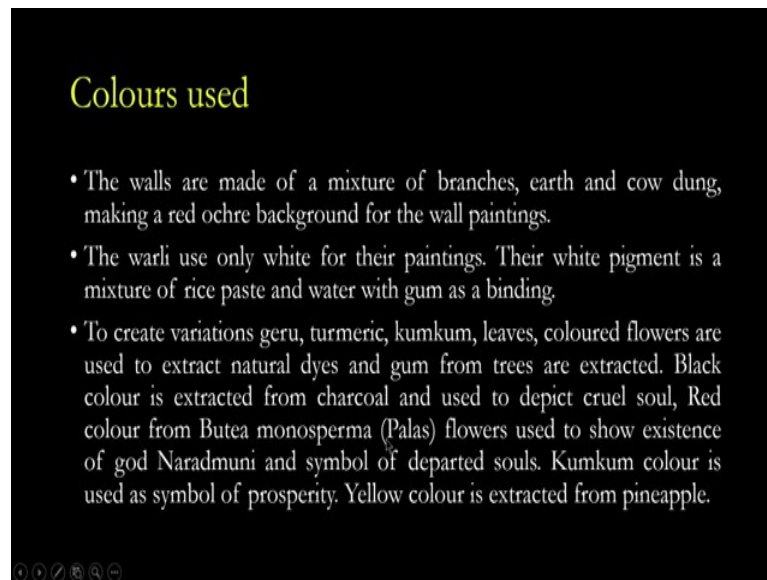
- Use of natural colour made with rice paste.
- A border with simple triangle, squares geometric figures.
- Symbols like Sun, Moon, Birds, Trees supporting the main theme.
- Human figures, figures of deities and bride-bridegroom are common.
- The faces of the human figures are circle, body with two triangles and females are identified with protruding curve line symbolising ponytail.
- Warli painting is an emblematic expression of day-to-day experiences and beliefs.

Characteristics of Warli painting, use of natural colour made with rice paste, a border with simple triangle square geometric figure, a border is very important in every Warli painting you will see the border. Symbols like sun, moon, birds, trees supporting the main theme. So, in the there could be a main theme in the painting that we have seen in the earlier in a Lagnachauk the wedding scene is important.

And in the background or in the other space, sun moon birds trees and other things can be done to support the main theme. Human figures, figures of deities and bridegrooms are common. The faces of human figures are circle body with two triangles and females identified with a protruding curve line symbolising ponytail. So, you we will see how a man and a female bodies are distinguished.

So, essentially a human figure is drawn with a circle to represent the head and two triangles, the tip of the triangles touching each other to make the body of the person. Warli painting is an emblematic expression of day to day experience and beliefs. So, Warli painting is actually symbolises the day to day activities of the Warli tribe, its a symbolic representation of the life daily life of Warli tribe.

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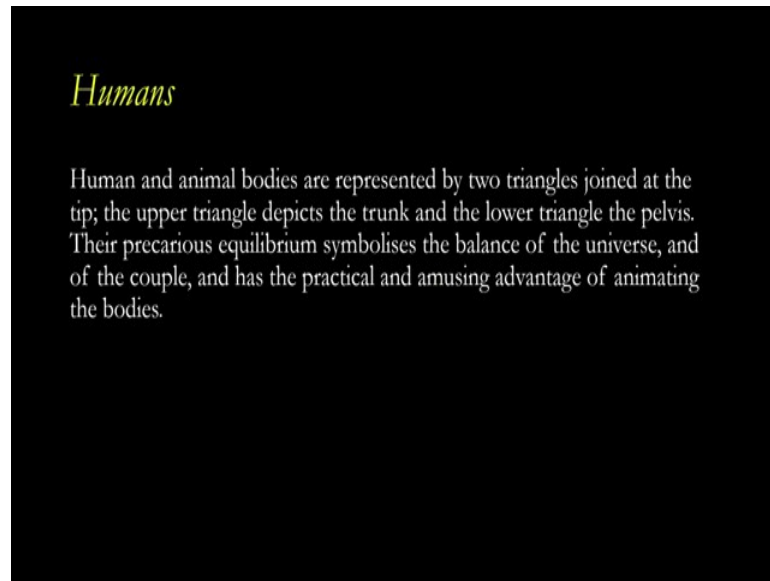


Colours used walls are made of a mixture of branches earth in cow dung, making a red ochre background for the walls as we have seen earlier the paintings are done on the mud walls; background or the wall painting the Warli used use only white for the painting.

So, traditionally only white colour is used for the painting, you do not use any other colour only white colour on red surface. The there white pigment is a mixture of rice paste and water with gum as a binding. To create variation geru, turmeric, kumkum leaves, coloured flowers are used to extract natural dyes and gums for trees are extracted. So, to give some variations some turmeric occasional is turmeric, kumkum leaves flower colours might be used.

Black colour is extracted from charcoal and used to depict cruel soul. So, black is related to negativity in Warli tradition. Red colour from Butea monosperma that is Palas flower used to show existence of god Naradmuni and symbol of departed souls. Kumkum colour is used as a symbol of prosperity, yellow colour is extracted from pineapple. So, different colours have different meanings and their use occasionally along with the white colour to show different things. So, what are the common figures in Warli painting?

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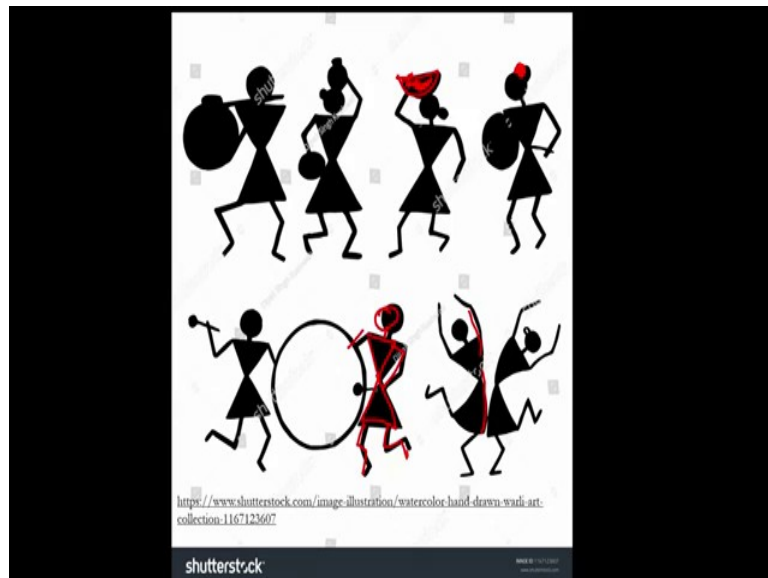


Humans are common; human and animal bodies are represented by two triangles joined at the tip, the upper triangle depicts trunk and lower triangle the pelvis. This precarious equilibrium symbolizes the balance of the universe and of the couple and has the practical amusing advantage of animating the bodies.

So, that showing that; showing a human body by two triangles which are connected just by the tip is has a very symbolic meaning that it the universe the balance of the universe is very precarious, it is an the relationship between a man and a woman is also very critical, it is to show the precarious the critical balance of the universe as well as relation relationship, the two triangles are shown just connected to each other by the tip of the points.



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So, this is how the human figures are represented. You will essentially see round head connected with a line two triangles and the legs are drawn the hands, this is how typically a Warli figure human figure is drawn and if it is a woman you just give add a bun to show the hair, this makes the difference between the men and women.

So, you can show a bent women figure this way, a dancing figure you add some musical instruments or you add some utensils that is used by the people, some pots which is used in day to day affair.

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### *Gods and Goddesses*

Circle is considered as symbol of lifecycle. Sun, moon, trees, creepers, birds, things used in day to day life are commonly depicted. Gods like Vaghya god, Naran god and Panchshirya god are believed to protect family and Himai goddess and Hirwai goddess are spirits of nature are commonly depicted in this form of painting.

So, this second representation is god and goddesses. Circles is considered as a symbol of lifecycle. Sun, moon, trees, creepers, birds things used in day to day life are commonly depicted. Gods like Vaghya god, Naran god and other gods which are protect the family are represented in in the Warli painting.

So, we have seen that the Warli in Warli art form the religious themes are not important, but the day to day activities are more important the social life is more important. Here the representation of god and goddesses is not to show the religious theme, but it is to show how gods and goddesses a part of the social life of the Warli tribe.

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So, this is how it is drawn as we have seen that if it is a if a god and goddesses are supposed to be represented and it is drawn within a square which is called the Lagnachauk and within that the deity is represented and in the other spaces other figures can be drawn. If you have a chance just look up for the Tarpa dance, this figures with joining hands often represent the Tarpa dance of the Warli tribe.

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### *Birds and Animals*

The primary occupation of the Warli tribe is farming. Animal motifs like cows, bulls, cocks, hens, sheep, dogs are commonly drawn in the paintings as these are domestic animals. Bird motifs like peacock, sparrow are seen sometimes snake, frog is also seen. Frogs are depicted for heavy rainfall, scene of harvesting and farming are also commonly shown.

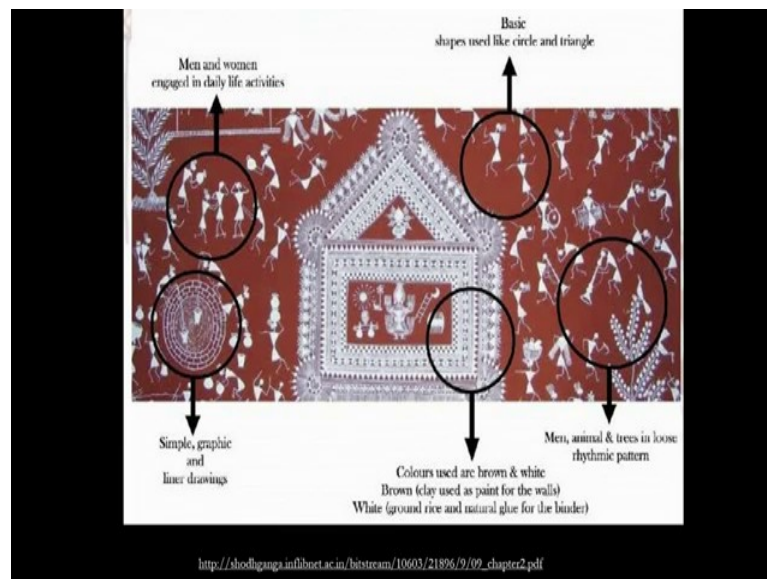
When birds and animals are quite common, the primary occupation of the Warli tribe is farming. Animal motifs like cow, bull, cocks, hen, sheep, dogs are commonly drawn in the painting as these are domestic animals. So, domestic animals is quite often represented in the Warli painting. Birds motifs like peacock, sparrow are seen sometimes snake, frog is also seen, frogs are depicted for have for heavy rainfall scenes of harvesting and farming are also commonly shown.

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So, this is how the flora and fauna are represented in Warli painting. Just pay attention to the fish drawn here, the crab and other aquatic organisms and goats, the deer, birds different kinds of birds, monkey, the trees, the mountains. So, Warli has a very deep vocabulary and it is able to show different elements by using just their circle, triangle and square look at how the paddy is presented. Just pay attention to their different trees how the different trees are different presented. So, these are the some of the common figures represented in Warli painting.

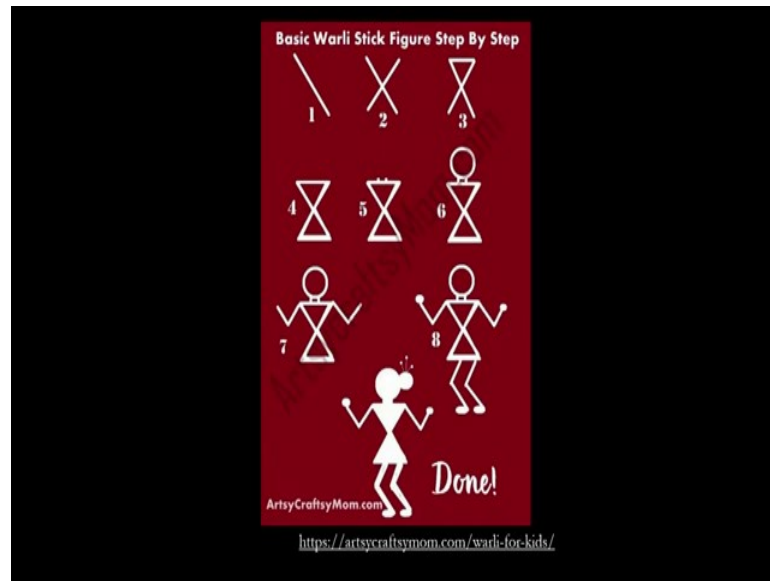
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So, this can be a whole just pay attention to the details men and women here doing different activities, simple graphics in line drawings here, which might not have a realistic a representation, but they might just be decorative or a (Refer Time: 22:02) thing in the painting.

Here the human figures are drawn. So, just see the how the different postures are created by just using the two triangles here. So, animals and plants and animals how they are drawn. So, usage of the white and red background and white colour and how look at how the patterns are different patterns are created.

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So, now let us try and make a Warli figure or human Warli figure. So, you start with a line basic line, then you make two cross lines and you make the triangle and you join the two triangle, makes line here put the head with a circle like a circle and the hands. After that give him give the person the legs and if it is a woman just draw a bun and put some decoration in the bun. So, this is how a simple human figure is created in Warli art form.

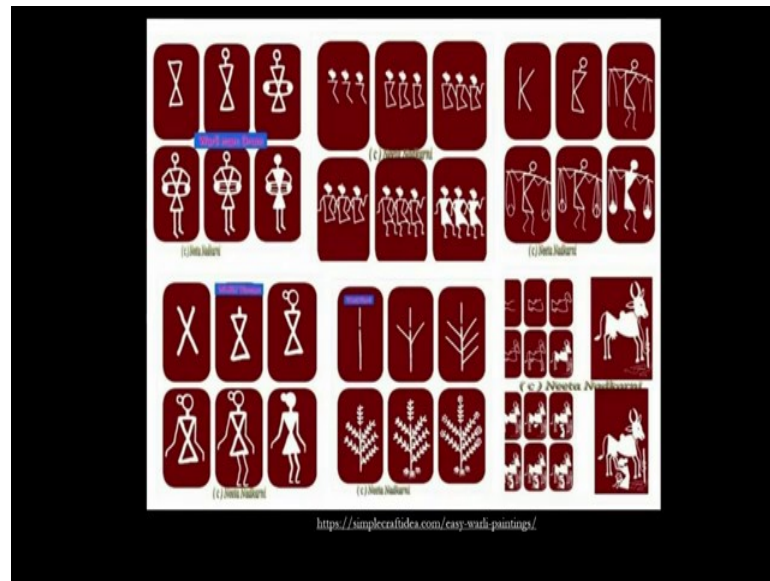
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You can draw this a dancing a chain of dancing girls, just by draw connecting the hands with one another.

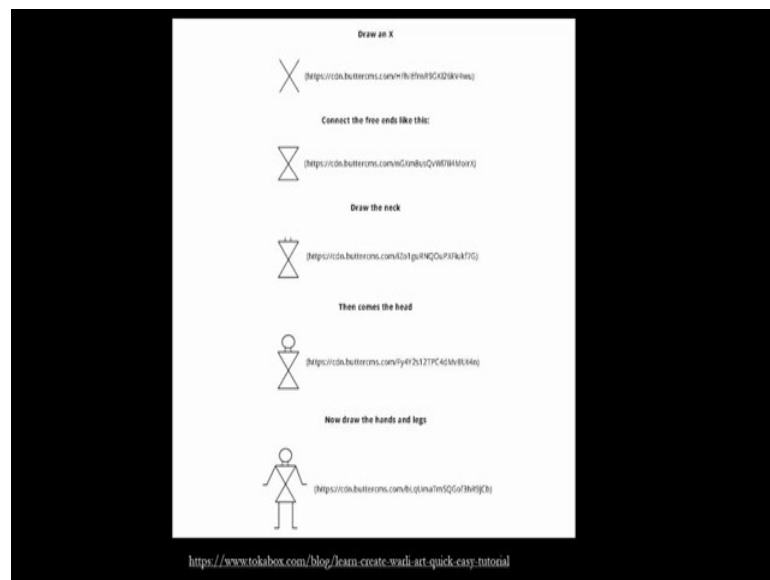


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So, these are various figures that can be drawn with Warli art. A person with a dhol dancing figures, a person carrying something, a women, a tree, animal here is a cow and here is a woman who is milking the cow.

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So this as we have already discussed it is just using sticks, you begin with a stick and then add triangle and the circle to draw the figures.

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This is a figure of a woman in Warli art. This is of a girl just the distinction is made just by the hairstyle. Here just a pony tail is used minute to show that this is the figure of a small girl. Here a lady who is the figure is bent.

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Here two girls joining hands.

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Here is a lady carrying a pot on her head.

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Here is a figure of a cow, just pay attention that here too in this figure of the cow also two triangles are used, in the similar way the how human figure is created. But this is more horizontal and there it is vertical. For the face too a triangle is used and for legs just draw some sticks, then the horns, the ears and finally, the tail this how a animal figure is drawn.

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This is a house you can try making it.

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This is how by using the figures that we have seen earlier and entire Warli painting can be made. You can try it if you like just pay attention to the placement houses, the trees. So, the dancers in between the cart here, the women doing the household chores here, the tree just pay attention to the difference between this tree and the this tree.

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So, early has gone through a lot of change from the wall painting that we have seen in the first slide, it has been now come to the fashion industry and Warli painting is quite popular and it is used in various objects from clothes to daily day to day things like the umbrella, the the mugs you use to drink and various other things and Warli has been the Warli art has been used to decorate many different things.

So, today we have seen the Warli art, in the next class lets explore some other art form from the south of India, let us look at the Chitra art from south of India. Ok friends, thank you for today just go through the slides and look closely how the figures are made and how entire painting is created by using those simple figures.

Thank you so much.