
Contemporary Art Forms and Performance Practices in Assam: A Study

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Abstract: *The research paper describes and presents an overview of the contemporary art forms and performance practices from the various regions in Assam. Visiting recent art exhibitions and talking about living artists is an important aspect of appraising the culture of the Assam arts with awareness and appreciation. This study used a descriptive method to gather information about existing conditions in which the library method and literature review were utilized in gathering and synthesizing the papers and scientific papers related to contemporary art of Assam. The data were analyzed through synthesis information known as explanatory synthesis through the use of eight criteria in analyzing the reviews such as painting and other visual arts, architecture, sculpture and installation, literature, music, dance, cinema, and theatre and performance. In conclusion of the results and discussions, contemporary art of Assam encompasses a wide range of art forms and constantly redefines and dismantles traditional categories of art. Assam conventional art has always been an integral part of daily life, as well as the dominant and alternative art forms. Its importance endures not only in its aesthetic representation but also in its functionality and its significance to the society that created it. As the dominant, alternative, and traditional art forms may be used in everyday private circumstances, it is encountered more closely and possesses many senses concurrently.*

Keywords: *Contemporary, Art, Forms, Performance, Practices, Assam.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Since it offers chances and options to reflect on society and the issues that are important to us and the rest of the world, contemporary art is the art produced by artists who are currently living in our day. Furthermore, it is a component of a cultural interchange that takes into account more significant contextual frameworks like nationality, family, community, and identity.

A crucial element in evaluating the culture of Assam's arts with art awareness and appreciation is going to contemporary art exhibitions and having conversations with working



artists. The art produced by the artists in the twenty-first century is referred to as contemporary art.

Contemporary art is a fantastic resource for thinking about current concepts and rethinking the familiar because it reflects modern culture and society.

Contemporary artists challenge conventional boundaries and resist easy categorization with their work, which is a dynamic succession of ideas, techniques, mediums, and subjects. Contemporary art in this varied and eclectic setting is distinguished by its complete absence of a single organizing idea or principle. Contemporary artists give voice to the shifting and diversified cultural landscape of beliefs, values, and identities in a technologically advanced, culturally diverse, and internationally impacted environment.

2. RELATED WORKS

Modern Art

Since the beginning of human history, life in the community, society, and the wider globe has been mirrored in art in all of its forms, lines, colours, and shapes. The world's affairs and worldwide trends have been reflected in artistic movements for the past 200 years. From 1900 to the present, humanity has existed in a world that is getting smaller and smaller. According to Sunico (2015), the 20th century was a boom for the exchange of values, beliefs, ideas, and lifestyles that brought people from all over the world closer together.

Globally, there has been a movement that encourages diverse languages, cultures, abilities, and even physical characteristics of different races to merge as never before. Aside from the two World Wars, the 20th century also saw a number of regional confrontations in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Assam's Contexts:

Technological developments continue to be the key factor behind the various directions that these art forms have taken in Assam. Impressive advancements and modifications in material manipulation, colouring techniques, decoration methods, and creation processes applied to all forms of media used today physical, tangible, virtual have been among the results. These have made it possible for incredibly inventive art forms to arise that go well beyond traditional painting, sculpture, and architecture. Contemporary artists adapt to new technologies as quickly as they can be developed in order to enhance their inventiveness and artistic expression.

In addition to bringing Assam's artistry and artistry to the attention of the world, contemporary trends and techniques in digital media, film, photography, print media, and industrial or product design have opened up a wide range of opportunities for young and developing Assam to widen and make use of these skills and talents.

Statement of the Problem:

Artists, academics, scholars, and independent researchers can all benefit greatly from Assamese contemporary art forms and performance practices.

Objectives of the Study:

The objective of the study paper is to give a summary and description of the contemporary performance techniques and artistic expressions from the various regions of Assam.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In order to gather data regarding prevailing conditions, this study employed a descriptive methodology (Subong, Jr., 2005). According to Creswell (2009), descriptive research is distinct in that it necessitates the gathering of information in order to address inquiries on the current circumstances surrounding the study's subject.

In this study design, reports and scientific expositions pertaining to contemporary art forms and performance practices from the various areas of Assam were gathered and synthesised through the use of the library method (Sappe, 2020) and literature review (Tabuena, 2020).

Procedure for Gathering Data:

The researcher identified three comparative perspectives on the modern art forms and performance practices from the different Assamese regions:

- (1) Dominant (mainstream)
- (2) Alternative
- (3) Traditional (indigenous), based on the literature review procedure. Eight categories, including painting and other visual arts, architecture, sculpture, and installation, as well as literature, music, dance, film, theatre, and performance, were used by the researcher to analyse reviews.

Data Analysis:

Explanatory synthesis, also known as synthesis information (Murray, 2006), is a written discussion that draws from one or more sources to break down a topic into its constituent parts and present them to the reader in an understandable and organised way. Eight criteria were used to analyse the reviews, including the following ones:

1. The visual arts, including painting and other media
2. Architecture, sculpture and installation
3. Literature, music, dance, cinema, theatre, and performance round out the list

The evaluation of the effects of various data components and methodologies on the reported results is exemplified by this process, which also demonstrates previously published and reported significant results that investigate the same phenomenon. This process is known as a meta-analysis.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An important part of the process of creating meaning for artistic creations is audience participation. According to certain artists, the viewer adds to the piece of art by sharing his thoughts, perceptions, experiences, and opinions. Contemporary art of Assam in the 21st-century produced by the popular artists from Assam's in the various regions that reflects both

cultural diversity and technological advancement. A wide variety of artistic mediums are included in contemporary art, which continuously reinterprets and subverts established artistic classifications. Fine art, popular art, and craft are the three main categories into which art is divided. Visual arts, architecture, music, dance, theatre, photography, cinema, broadcast art, digital art, and installations are the categories into which art is divided based on media. Printmaking, literature, and sculpting are examples of other artistic mediums.

Painting and Additional Visual Arts:

Painting is the process of putting colour, pigment, or paint using common painting materials (acrylic, oil, and water colour) on a surface (canvas, metal, paper, walls, or wood). Studio art and indigenous art comprise the visual arts of today's Assam.

The art in each of the regions is unique in that it encompasses a wide range of forms and styles, drawing inspiration from existing fine art forms, local customs and traditions, indigenous cultures, and cultural or social challenges.

A more avant-garde group of painters in Assam presented fresh developments and methods of approaching the subject matter, further stimulating artistic traditions. The paintings' deft social commentary, which juxtaposes historical and modern imagery, is particularly noteworthy. Towards the end of the 20th century, social realism a genre that often focused on protest problems and themes in alternative art became increasingly influential.

Architecture:

The planning, creating, and shaping of buildings and other constructions or structures is the art and science of architecture. The progression of purpose and style in the building of various structures is exhibited in contemporary art. Alternative architecture, de-constructivism, green architecture, high-tech, neo-vernacular, and postmodernist approaches are notable forms of contemporary art.

Installation and Sculpture:

A sculpture is a three-dimensional piece of art that can be created using a variety of techniques, including assembly, carving, casting, or modelling, as well as classic, alternative, and dominant art forms. Similar to sculpture, installation art is a relatively recent genre of art defined as work that has been placed or installed in a specific site with the intention of altering the observer's perspective and understanding of the space.

Music:

A systematic and continuous combination of vocal or instrumental tones, music is an artistic method of aural communication. It can also refer to any pleasant and attractive sound made by musicians or vocalists. The Contemporary era saw a boom in Assamese music.

5. CONCLUSION

Contemporary artwork in Assam embraces a diverse array of artistic expressions and is continuously redefining and deconstructing conventional artistic classifications. Some artists think that language, social relationships, and unconscious processes all have an impact on an

individual. They think they need to be more capable of bringing about change. A different subset of artists referred to as structuralists, believe that a phenomenon can be understood in light of other occurrences.

The artist's job is to bring these phenomena to light because they are encoded in certain codes and indications. They strive for the objectivity, coherence, and rigour that come from theories and science. They believe in the permanence of human nature and strive for a universal truth. Traditional art from Assam has always been a vital part of both mainstream and alternative art forms. Its aesthetic portrayal, practicality, and historical significance for the civilization in which it was made all contribute to its enduring importance. Since traditional, alternative, and dominant art forms can be used in private settings on a daily basis, they are experienced more intimately and simultaneously appeal to several senses. Together with visual perception and discrimination, the senses of taste, smell, and touch are interconnected.

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