

**REPORT ON**  
**'LOOKING AT INDIAN ART: THE JOY AND MYSTERY'**  
**BY**  
**DPSS - HRDC TRAINING SESSION**

**DATE:** July 7, 2021 (Wednesday)

**TIME:** 2:00 p.m. to 4: 00 p.m.

**TOPIC:** Looking at Indian Art: The Joy and Mystery

**FACILITATORS:** Dr. (Ms.) Kiran Datar, Member, Working committee, The DPS Society

- Mr. Soumik Nandy Majumdar, Department of History of Art, Kala Bhavana Visva Bharti, Shantiniketan.

**INTRODUCTION:**

*"Everything you can imagine is real."*

~Pablo Picasso

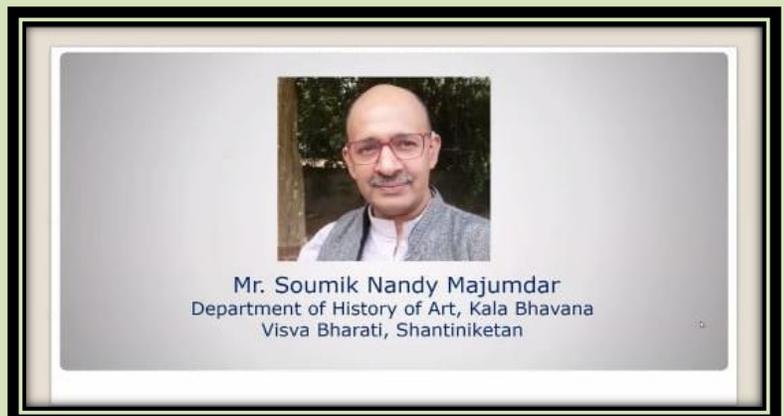
The session began with the very vibrant and cheerful welcome by **Dr. (Ms.) Kiran Datar**, a lady endowed with years of remarkable wit and wisdom.



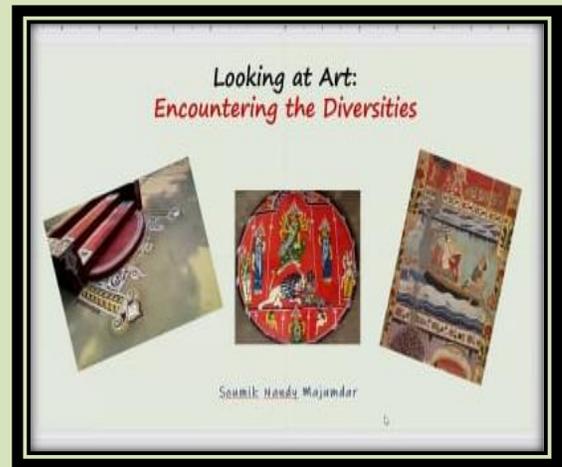
She introduced the topic by expressing her views on the relation and importance of arts with academics. Later she handed over the session to **Mr. Soumik Nandy Majumdar**, a renowned personality who is a commendable artist and is associated with the department of History of Arts, Kala Bhavana Visva Bharti, Shanti Niketan.

Mr. Majumdar set the tone of the session by explaining the importance of Indian as well as Modern Arts in academics. He enriched all the participants by making them aware about the contributions made by different art forms in various fields.

After, catching the interest of the participants with some pictures and models that had some historical importance; he steered towards the session, viz. Art forms and the contributions



made by them. He focused at the way one should look at the art and the diversity of art which he also quoted as “Encountering the Diversities”.



The session was continued by showing, a set of striking paintings pasted on the soft board which were the pieces of art representing diversity, and the viewer’s perspective was taken into account.

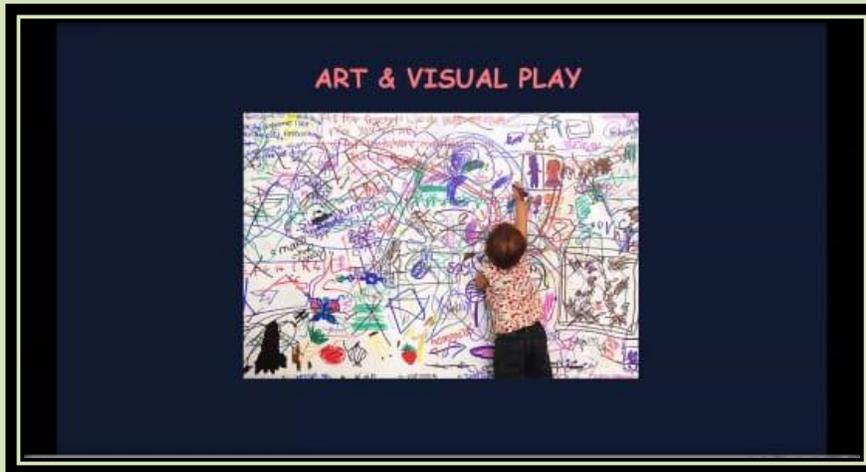


Next, following set of pictures was displayed and responses were pondered upon to conjure the creative spirits of the participants. Each picture that was displayed had its own description which could easily force the observer to enjoy art at its basic level.



This particular piece of art represents a realistic looking face which is made by using some wood logs giving it a piece of appearance of a face.

The above piece of art is created by Picasso which successfully represents a Realistic bulls head. The handles and seat of a bicycle has been used creatively to create such a art.

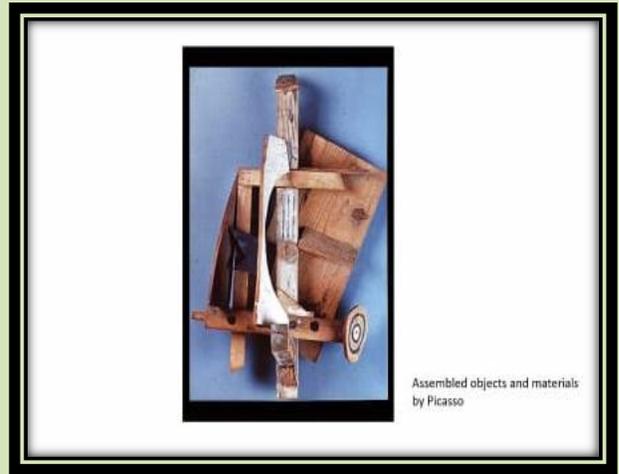
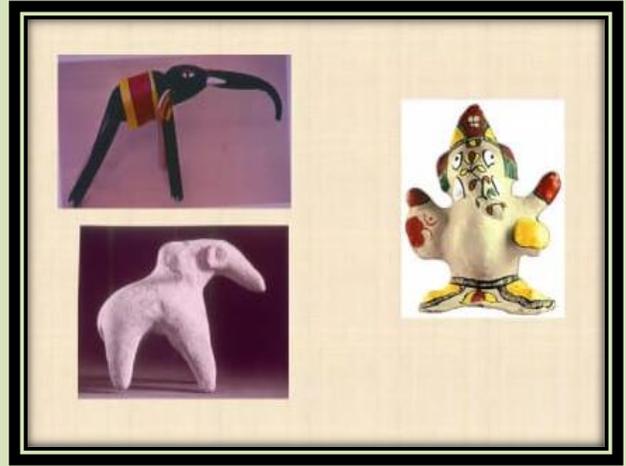


The picture shown above represented the play element of art which may seem as just a scribbling picture for many observers but in true sense it may be considered as another way of representing an art form.

✚ Mr. Soumik Nandy Majumdar also discussed some of the art forms like :

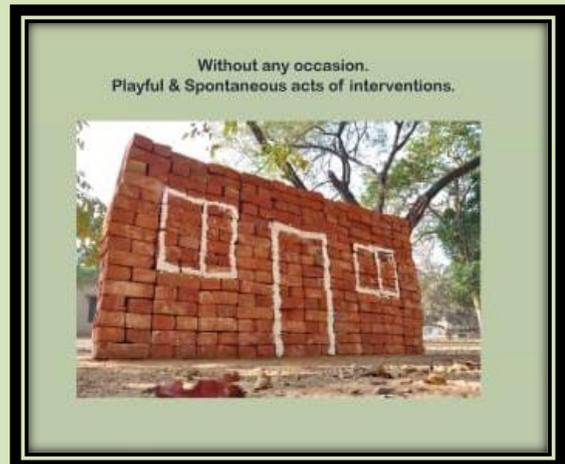
- The Rajasthani art
- Oriental art
- Visual art
- Clay art

He shared the screen again to display some of the art from pictures Again and the motive was only to enhance the observation skills of the Participants and allow them to think out of the box so that their creative skills help them to construct or imagine or work upon their academics in a much better way.



✚ According to him, *Play with visuals empowers the art and the artist to:*

- Respond to the changing world/life/society.
- Expand the scope of art in terms of its meaning and content and also utility.
- Incorporate what was hitherto unattended and unaddressed.
- 



Recycled Art Form

Playful and spontaneous acts of  
Interventions.

- ✚ Visual play is a power, a strength, to sustain the magic between the seen and the sensed, between the seen and the felt, between the seen and the imagined.

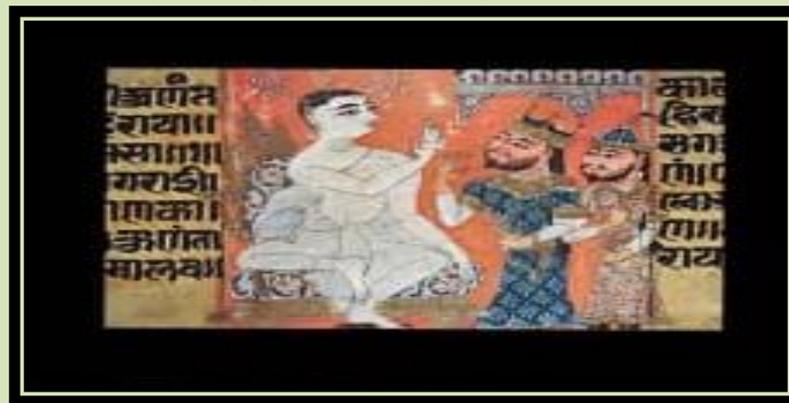


*This picture was displayed and instance was quoted by Mr. Majumdar where he once asked his students to observe the picture and asked them whether they think that the picture was incomplete and needs some improvisation. He stated that one of his students pointed that according to him the picture was perfectly fine and needs no change as it clearly represents a cat.*

So, he concluded that observations and imaginations cannot be restricted as each observer would have a different story and different perception for each observation.

*The students should also be given enough space and time to ponder upon their reasons for giving a particular answer to a question.*

- ✚ Another form of art known as the oriental art in general and Indian art in particular, composition often is an outcome of a story telling/ narrative purpose.



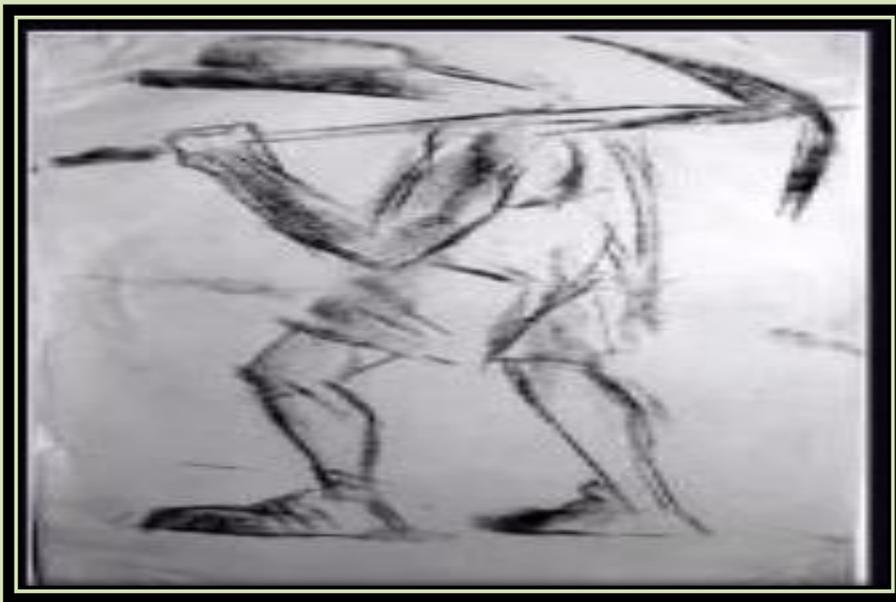
*The students should adopt the habit of creating their own stories with appropriate reasons and concepts for a better learning experience.*

- ✚ Further following pictures were shown and the realistic views behind the pictures were explained:



*The beauty of this picture lies not only in the beauty of the lady portrayed (however enigmatic her looks might be), but in the way the lady has been portrayed.*

*The style eventually becomes more important than the subject. In fact, the beauty of the lady is secondary since the artist here is constructing an ideal **concept of beauty** rather than anything else.*



*Does it really matter that the figure is a headless one, in the drawing?*

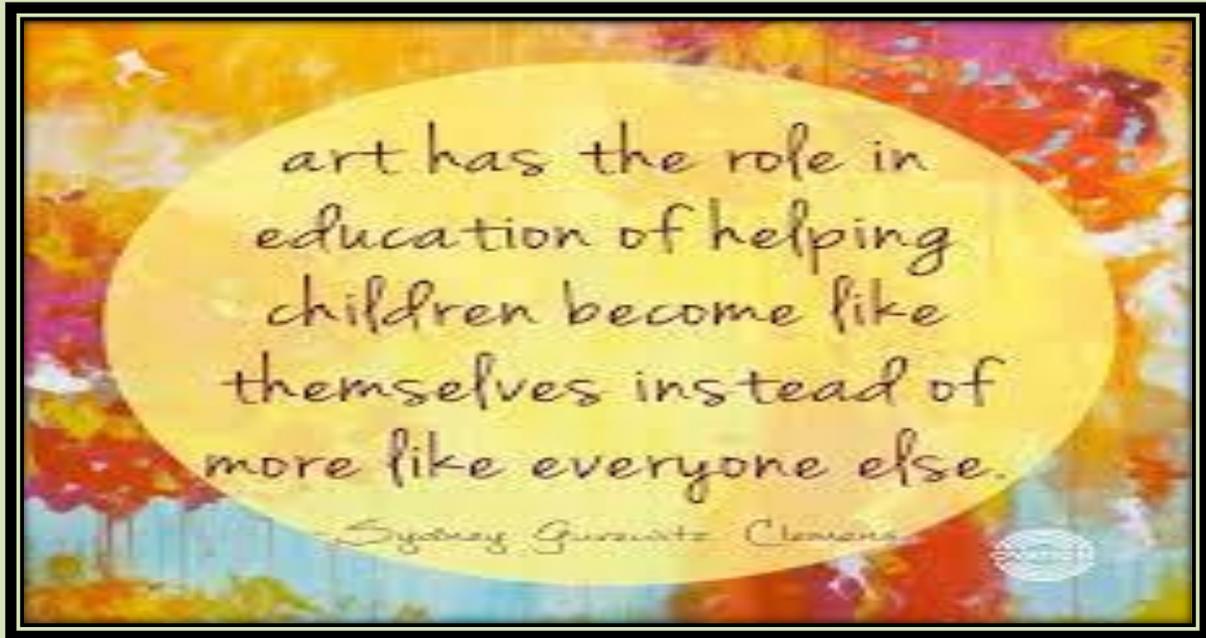
*Do we really feel that the man does not have a head, even if we have noticed it?*

***Visual perception** hence, is not only about receiving visual data but also about filling up the world with data and visual inputs-thus making a sense.*

### **Conclusion:**

The whole session was based upon the playfulness of arts which embraces diversity. It also helps to imagine, recreate and think beyond one's limits (out of the box) to engage oneself in some kind of a playful activity. Such practices break the boredom of the regular teaching learning process and make

the students more active, alert and enhance their interests and broaden their minds in all the subjects they learn.



The enriching session ended with warm regards from all the participants.

*Reported By,*  
*Komal Sharma.*