

4

Composition (How to make a painting)

4 INTRODUCTION

Composition in painting means selection and arrangement of animate or inanimate objects within the given space to express the artist's ideas or imagination properly and effectively. At the very beginning, we may go for non-figurative composition.

4.1 OBJECTIVES

After studying and practicing this lesson the learner should be able to:

- arrange two or three forms properly in a given space to create a theme.
- handle the materials effectively to create the composition.

4.2 GEOMETRICAL FORM OF COMPOSITION

Take one black sheet of paper. Cut it in different shapes and sizes - circle, square, triangle or different shapes. Instead of one black colour, you may go for different colour paper also.

Lay these cut pieces on a light colour sheet or white sheet of paper in different ways to cover the empty space of the paper. It helps to develop the basic compositional idea, which will also help to develop the idea of proper balancing of the covered area. The covered area is known as positive space and uncovered area is negative space. (see fig 4.1)

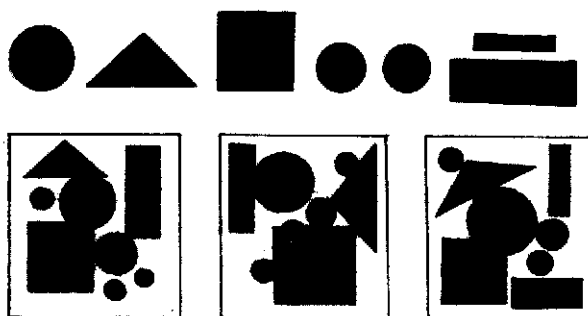


Fig. 4.1

Before starting a painting in water colour, oil colour, pastel colour or any other medium “a composition” is must, based on which the painting will be done. Even before thinking about the composition, one should think about the selection of subject/ theme of the painting. Namely - Mother and Child, Market place, Bus stop, Village scene, Landscape etc. Select any one from the given subjects. For example - we select ‘Mother and Child’ as theme of our painting.

Now we shall make several sketches of Mother and Child from life as ready reference. (Fig. 4.2)



Fig. 4.2

Along with drawing one should sketch surroundings also, as background of the painting. Shapes of the picture/composition area will be rectangular but horizontal or vertical as many as possible sketches of Mother with Child from different angles, various surroundings, if possible with tonal effect adding light and shade. Pencil sketches at the starting will be preferable. Pen and ink sketches with wash-tone can also be given.

NOW YOU GO FOR SELECTION

Out of good composed sketches you may select one for painting, in water colour, tempera (water colour mix with white colour to make opaque colour) or pastel colour etc. Some sketch examples are given for basic guidance. (Fig 4.3A, 4.3B)

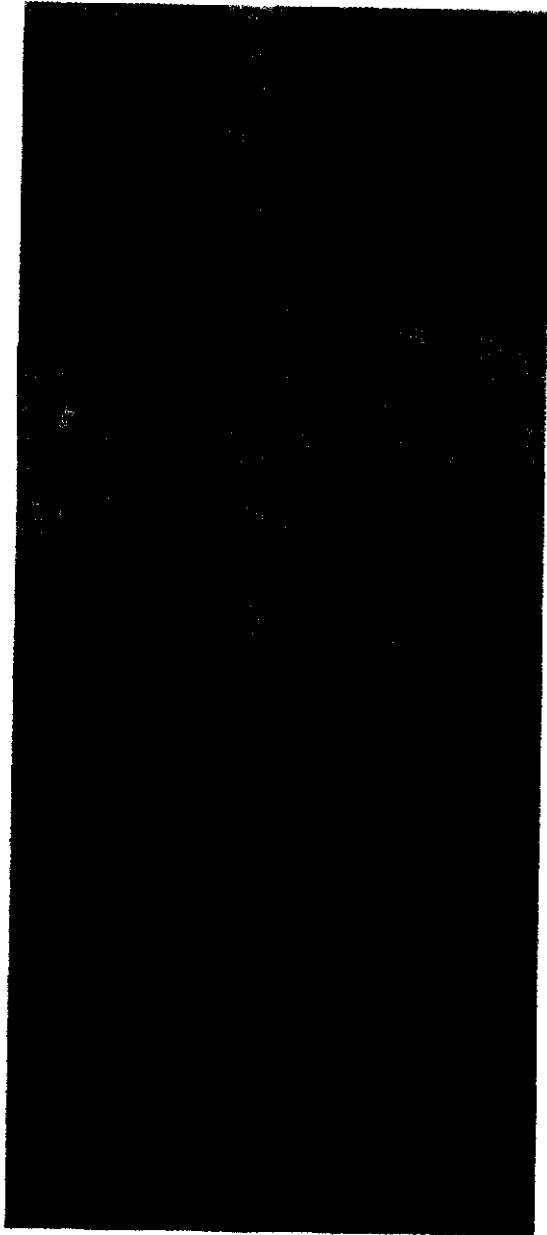


Fig. 4.3B

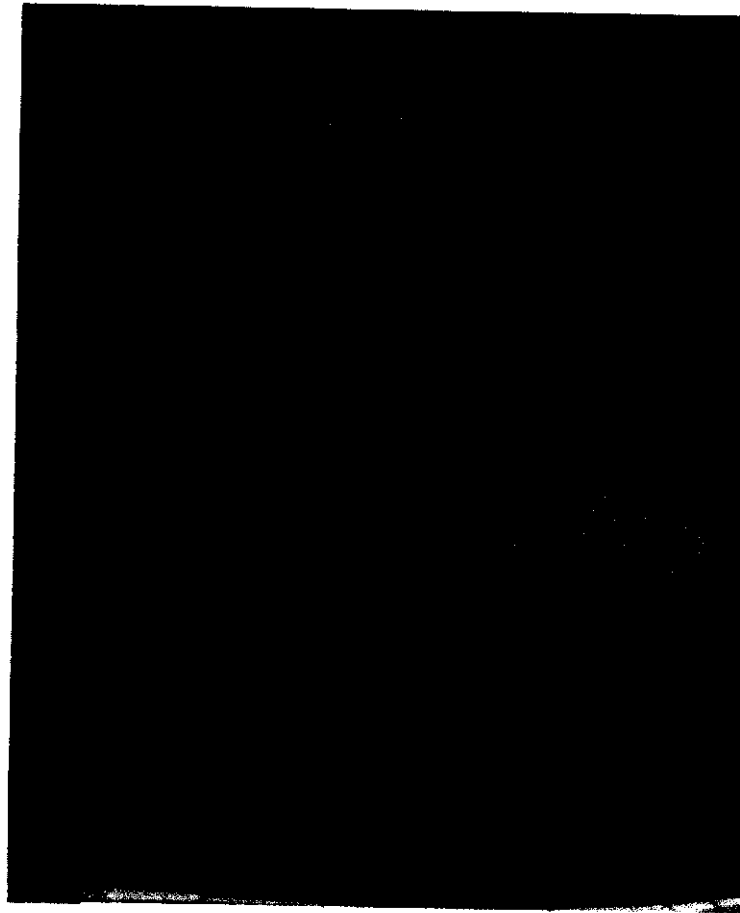


Fig. 4.3A

Consciously or unconsciously every day we also do composition work in our room decoration/room arranging work, drawing room table arrangement work. A nice table arrangement can be converted into a 'still life' painting composition. In still life composition one should keep in mind that balance - proper arrangement or display of objects, which will cover the picture surface or empty space of paper/canvas.

4.3 COMPOSITION - OBJECTS STUDY/STILL LIFE COMPOSITION

In our still life composition names of some elements are given herewith - simple objects like Jug, Tumbler, Basket, Bottle, Cup, Fruits, Books, Vase, Box, Cloths, Plants etc. are suitable on floor. For still life - some objects to be collected and to be displayed on a table.

Learner can select his/her objects as per availability. But colourful objects are preferable.

Learner is suggested that he/she can arrange the available objects according to his/her idea / imagination. Before going for final he/she should go for rough pencil drawings. Then go for final drawing on an art paper for water colour/pastel colour or canvas for oil colour painting. (Fig 4.4)

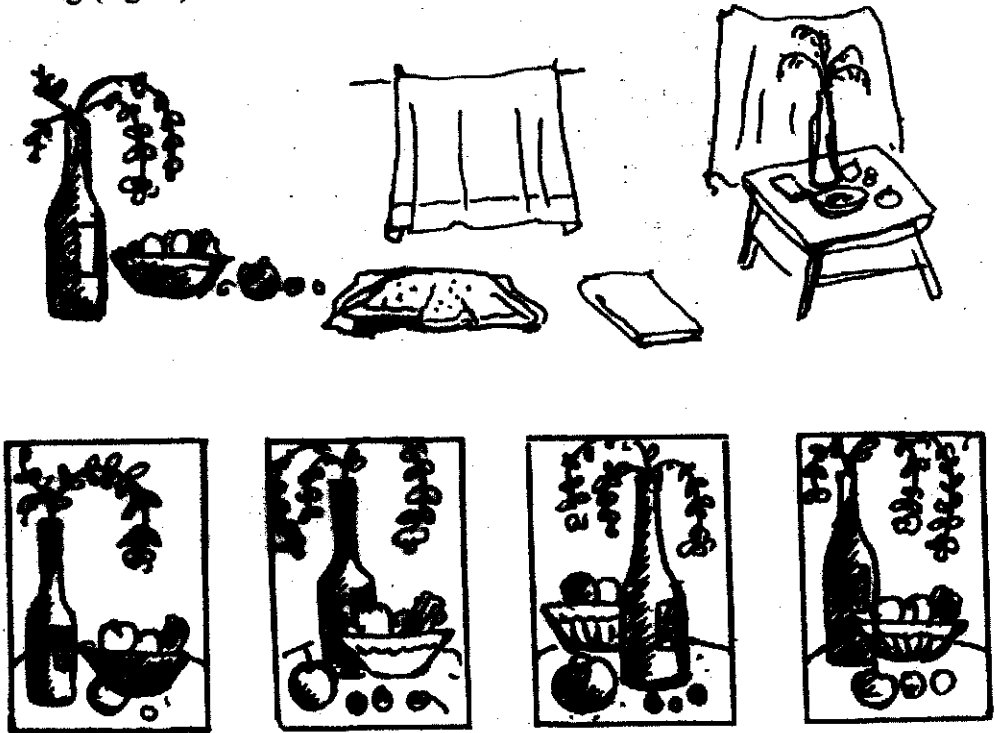
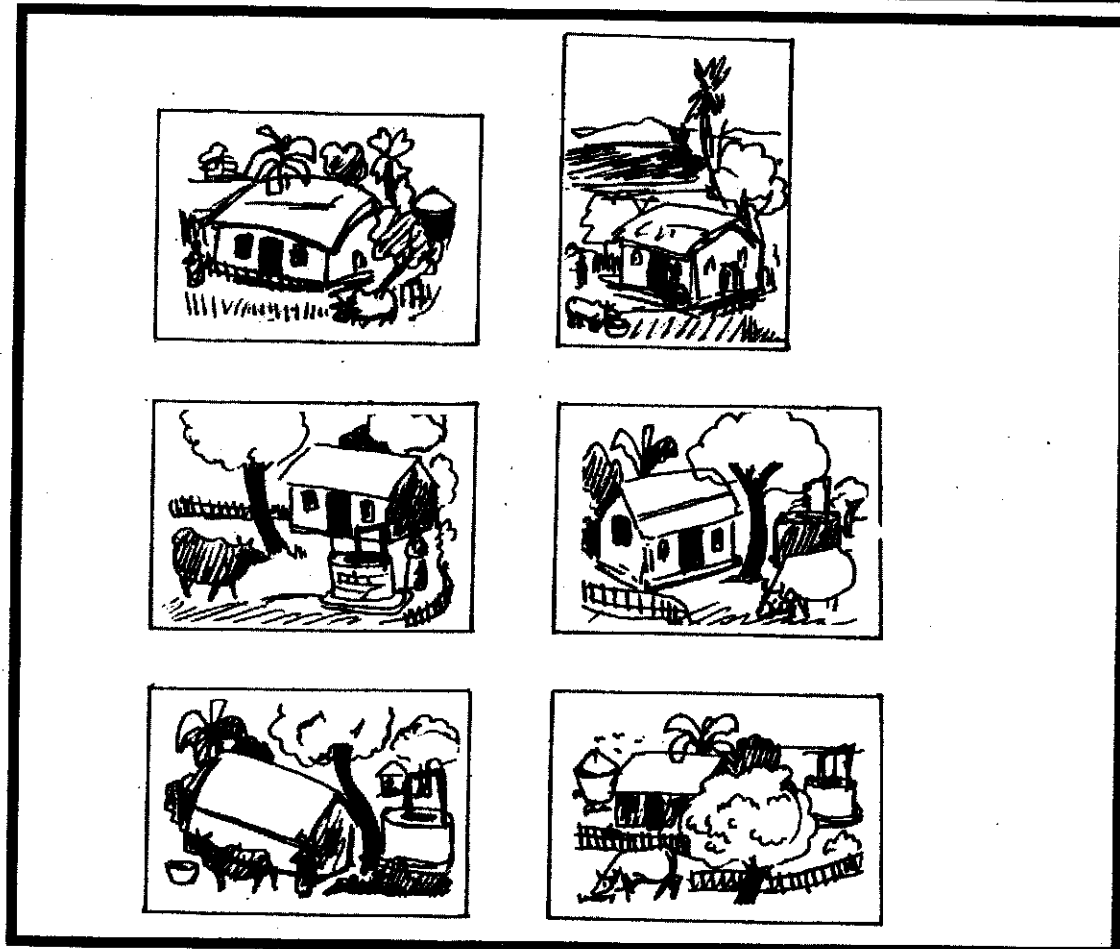
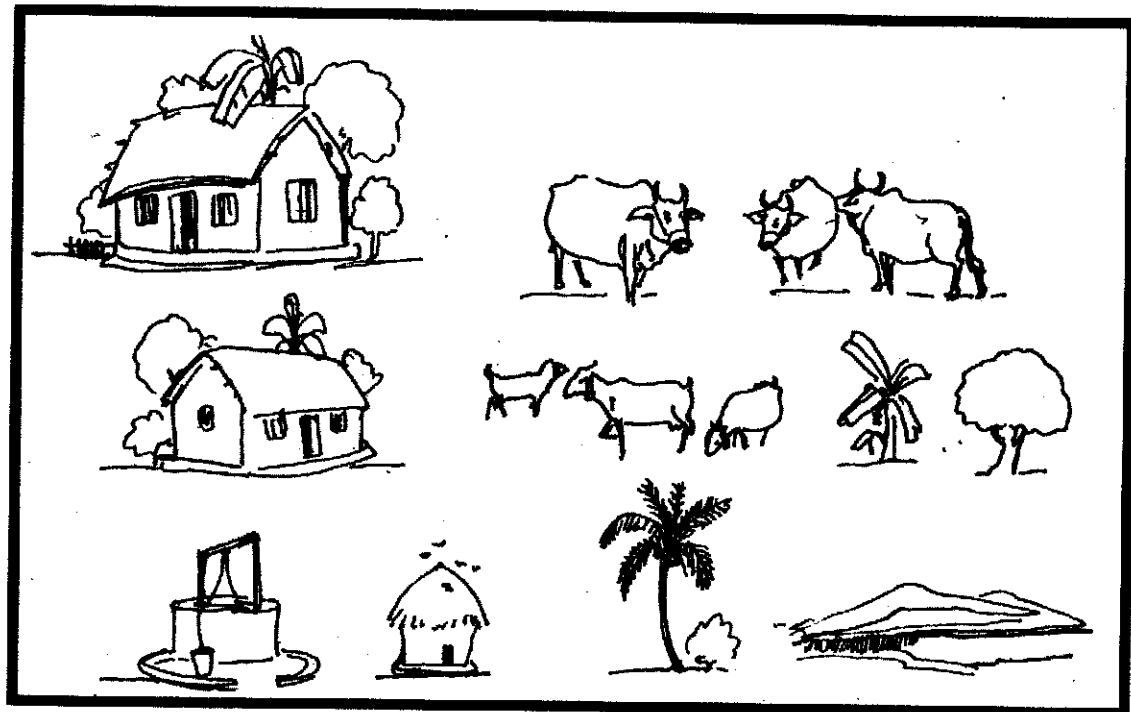


Fig. 4.4

4.4 COMPOSITION BASED IN NATURE

Our subject is nature study - landscape of village corner, rail station. Day-to-day life-festivals, library corner, kitchen corner etc.

Suitable shape is horizontal. Subject is village corner. What we see generally in a village - huts, trees, domestic animals like cow, dog, goat, human figures, birds; and at a distance - river, hills, boat on river, wells etc.



4.5 USE OF VIEW FINDER

To make a static subject one can take the help of view finder - like camera view finder. Take a post card size blackboard. Make a 1" x 1 ½" hole. This will help you to compose the objects and as you see through the hole, you may move the card right or left, upwards or downwards - keep watching to get a suitable composition. (See Fig 4.6).

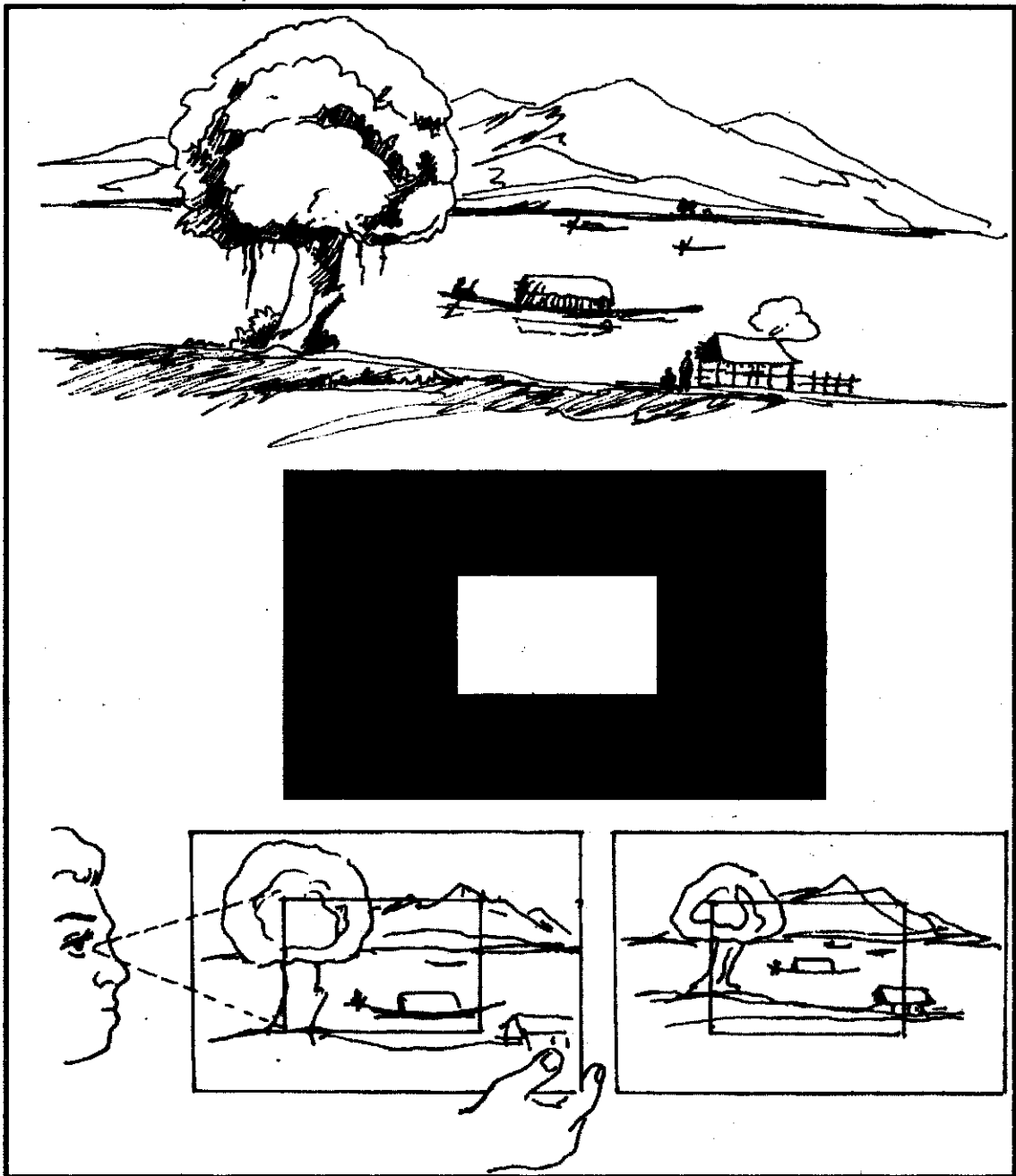


Fig. 4.6

4.6 NATURE STUDY COMPOSITION

From Nature Study/sketches you can make composition. Suppose the subject is village corner. In your sketch book you have to make sketches of different objects around you like Huts, Boat, Trees, River, Hills, Birds etc. Indicate the colour tone of the object side by side.



Fig. 4.7

This type of composition can be made in two different ways - spot painting or nature study, other one is composition from collected references/sketches which may call landscape composition.

When we take a photograph of a spot or scene, we cannot change or eliminate any object. But in the case of painting this is possible. At the time of preliminary sketching we can change, eliminate or replace any object, which is not important or disturbing the composition to make the picture beautiful.

When the references are available, you can make few rough pencil compositions before making a final composition for painting, afterwards use colour.

4.7 DECORATIVE FORM OF COMPOSITION - BASED ON NATURE (AROUND US)

You can make sketches from flower, leaves, flower buds, creeper even trees. This can be symmetrical pattern or a-symmetrical, but should cover the space nicely. This types of composition is different from normal composition for painting. Unlike painting composition this style covers maximum space. This could be colourful also, take the help of its natural colour scheme.

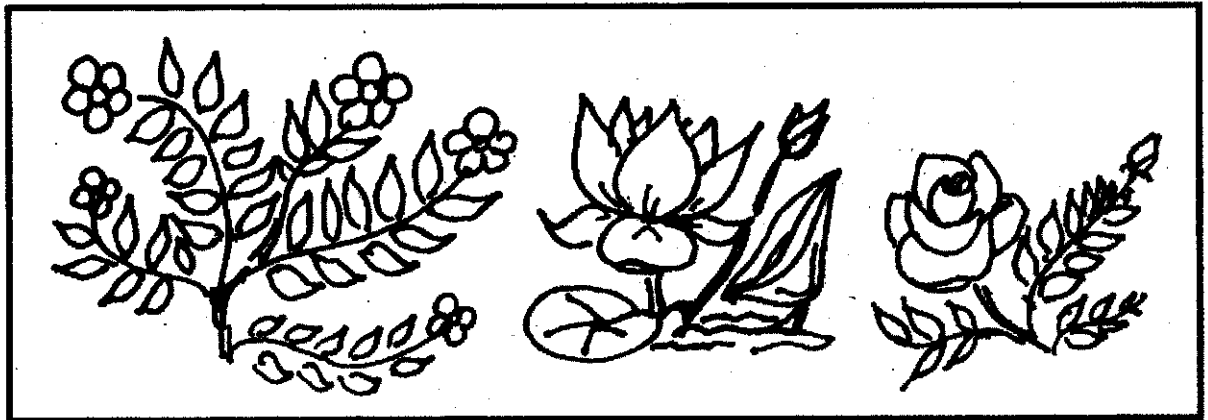


Fig. 4.8

4.8 SUMMARY

To express the artists ideas or imagination properly in a painting is called composition. While sketching colours should be used properly adding light and shaded. First sketching can be done with pencil and afterwards the paintings can be drawn on canvas or paper.

4.9 INTEXT QUESTIONS

1. Draw and compose the paintings of the following objects:
Jug, Glass, Basket, Fruit, Flower
2. Cut one sheet of paper in different shapes and sizes - Circle, square, triangle etc., and then compose in geometrical form.



Fig. 4.9



Fig. 4.10