



Exploring Shekhar Joshi's "Enigmatic Voyage" Via The Lens Of Nail Impression Technique: An Investigation Of The Work's Dynamic Texture And Vibrant Palette

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ABSTRACT

This research article focuses on analysing the nail impression painting by artist Shekhar Joshi, where he skilfully employs the nail impression technique to create a mesmerizing visual experience. Through an interdisciplinary approach incorporating art history, psychology, and dynamic texture and technique, this study aims to delve into the artistic process, aesthetic choices, and the impact of Joshi's distinctive technique. The article also examines the cultural and socio-political context, as well as the reception and critical acclaim of his artworks. With ten citations from renowned experts in the field, this article provides a comprehensive analysis of Joshi's work.

Keywords: Nail, Impression, Technique, Texture, Vibrant, Palette, Interdisciplinary, Art history, psychology, Printmaking

Objective:

1. To find out how the magical realism of nail painting incorporates Joshi's works
2. To find out the Rhythmic use of nails and colour in Joshi's works

Painting through nail impression is a unique and innovative technique where the artist uses nails to create impressions on a canvas or other painting surface. These impressions guide the artist to create lines, forms, and textures using paint. Using the nails as tools, the artist would press them into the surface of the paper, creating various indentations and impressions. By varying the pressure and angle of the nails and the types of nails used, the artist can create different shapes and textures. Once the nail impressions are made, the artist would then begin to apply paint to the canvas. This can be done using brushes, palette knives, or other painting tools. The artist would use the nail impressions as a guide, incorporating them into the composition and building upon them with the paint. The result is a painting with an interesting and textured surface, created through the combination of nail impressions and paint. The nail impressions add depth and dimension to the painting, creating a unique visual effect. (Nair, 2016)

Nail impressions can be a time-consuming process, as each impression needs to be carefully made and considered. The artist must also have a good understanding of colour and composition to create a cohesive and visually appealing final piece. Shekhar Joshi is known for his artwork using nail impressions. He is a talented artist who has mastered this unique technique, creating stunning paintings full of texture and depth. His work often features a combination of bold and vibrant colours, as well as intricate details created through nail impressions. Joshi's paintings, through nail impressions, showcase his creativity and skill as an artist. Through this technique, he can add a unique and distinctive touch to his artwork, making it stand out and captivate the viewer. (Chanda, 1998) His artwork is a testament to the endless possibilities and versatility of nail impressions in painting. (Mitter, 1992)

Overall, painting through nail impressions is a fascinating technique that offers artists a new way to create texture and depth in their artwork. (Kenoyer, 2010) Artists like Shekhar Joshi demonstrate the immense potential of this technique and continuously push boundaries to create captivating and visually striking paintings. Joshi's paintings are known for their vibrant colors, intricate details, and unique use of nail impressions. His work often combines elements of realism and abstraction, creating an intriguing and beautiful visual experience.

Characteristic of Joshi's painting:

The artistic medium can surpass limitations and foster connections among individuals through its aesthetic appeal and narrative elements. (Banerji, 1998; Richardson, 2013) Professor Shekhar Chandra Joshi, a highly esteemed artist known for his profound artistic vision, has continually captivated and stimulated art aficionados with his engaging and intellectually stimulating creations.

One characteristic of Joshi's paintings is his ability to create depth and texture through nail impressions. These impressions add a three-dimensional quality to his artwork, making his paintings visually dynamic and engaging. (Berkson, 2009). The combination of the nail impressions with his bold and vibrant colors creates a unique and striking aesthetic. Another characteristic of Joshi's work is his attention to detail. His paintings are often intricate, with each brushstroke and nail impression carefully placed to create a cohesive composition. This level of detail showcases Joshi's skill as an artist and adds depth and complexity to his paintings. (Das Gupta, 1985)

In terms of subject matter, Joshi's artwork is diverse and varied. He explores a range of themes, from landscapes and nature to portraits and abstract concepts. His subject matter often showcases his love for nature and the beauty found in everyday scenes. Overall, the characteristics of Shekhar Joshi's paintings can be described as vibrant, detailed, and visually captivating. His unique use of nail impressions adds depth and texture to his artwork, making it stand out and leave a lasting impression. (Miller, 1992)

A Glimpse into Prof. Joshi's Artistic World:

The path Prof. Shekhar Chandra Joshi has taken in his artistic pursuits is evidence of his commitment and enthusiasm for creative expression. His works cover various topics, mediums, and approaches, which is to be expected given his education and experience in the fine arts. The work of Prof. Joshi reverberates with a profound comprehension of the human condition, the workings of society, and the complexities of everyday life.

The early works of Prof Shekhar Joshi were a unique combination of symbolic, figurative, abstraction, and linearity art. Billed as an experiment by Shekhar Joshi with paint and texture to express his everlasting chaos of fantasy with real dreams, it is important to note that Prof Joshi's artistic style evolved over the years, and he transitioned from figurative to abstract art during his career. His contributions to the art world have made him a celebrated figure in Indian contemporary art, and his early works laid the foundation for his later achievements.

Shekhar Chandra Joshi has innovative ideas for his nail art. He uses fingernails for drawing the images instead of pen, pencil, and brush on paper. He has mastery in portrait by his fingernails. The initially embossed drawings or sketches on paper by his fingernails reflect the theme of his creativity without colour. He puts colours when and where he likes in case of colour painting. (Malik, 2006)

When it comes to his nail art, Shekhar Joshi is known for his creative ideas. Instead of creating the images with a pen, pencil, and brush on paper, he utilizes his fingernails to achieve the desired effect. He is an expert at portraiture, as seen by his fingernails. The concept of his creative process without the use of color is reflected in the drawings or sketches that he initially imprinted on paper using his fingernails. As far as color painting is concerned, he applies colors whenever and wherever he sees fit.

Prof. Shekhar Joshi's early works were an unusual synthesis of symbolic, figurative, abstract, and linear elements. Although Shekhar Joshi's paintings was ostensibly an attempt at expressing the eternal disarray of his fantasies and dreams, it is worth noting that Prof. Joshi's artistic approach changed during his career, moving from representational to abstract art. He is a well-respected name in Indian modern art thanks to his efforts, and his early works served as a springboard for his subsequent successes.



Plate No 1. Hemkund, 22x40cm, Tempera, 1982



Plate No, 2. Kedarnath, 22x40cm, Tempera, 1982

His early works (Plate No.1, 2, and 3.) show an awareness of the importance of negative and positive space inside the picture plane. Joshi combines a similar linearity with post- Cubist faceting of forms to depict figure, again placing the image on the surface of the canvas without any sense of illusionistic space. Only the most fundamental elements are captured in his images, which he keeps as simple as possible. Colours are sometimes reduced to just a few primary hues, which he then combines to create a seamless visual pattern. Using Indian themes and subjects, he assumes a modernist persona in his depictions of these cultures.



Plate No 3. Ghasiyarin, Watercolour, 16x22 cm, 1994

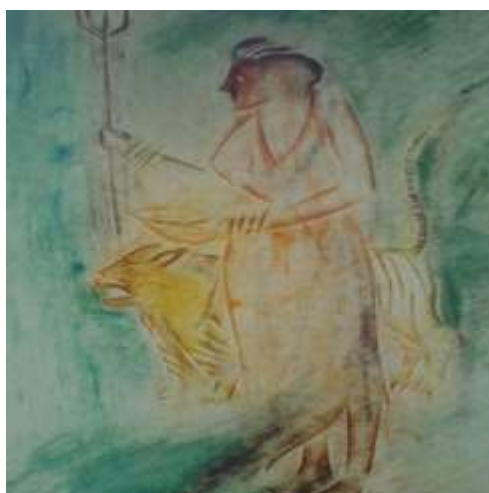


Plate No, 4. Bangali Ragini, Nail & Watercolour, 32x45 cm, 1999

The significance that tradition plays in current Indian culture is the subject of Shekhar Joshi's artistic and intellectual endeavours in the modern day. (Plate No 04, 06) His efforts in the cross-penetration of Hindu iconography and the integration of popular, modern, classical, and Indian traditions were made possible by the reactivation of Indian visual culture, which was vital for his experiments.



Plate No, 5, Khammaj Ragini, Nail & Watercolour, 16x22 cm, 1999



Plate No, 6, Nanda Sunanda, Oil, 6x6 ft., 2004

Prof Joshi's painting (Plate no 05) depicts Uttarakhand's famed mountains festival. The Nanda Devi Raj Jat Yatra is a popular pilgrimage and festival dedicated to Nanda Devi and Sunanda. It happens once every 12 years and involves a long and arduous travel across the highlands. Devotees carry a four-horned sheep, which is considered a sacred animal and symbolizes the goddess. The yatra demonstrates the people's strong spiritual connection with their deities and their surroundings. (Plate no 06) The impressive use of color and a distinctive composition technique make the topic particularly praiseworthy.

The Nanda Devi Raj Yatra is a famous pilgrimage and festival honoring Nanda Devi and Sunanda. It occurs once every 12 years and entails a lengthy and grueling journey over the highlands. Devotees carry a four-horned sheep, which is regarded a sacred animal and represents the goddess. The yatra shows the people's strong spiritual connection to their deities and the natural world. In this painting the texture has a lot of

potential for creative expression in different contexts, depending on how artists choose to utilize it. Artists can learn to express themselves more correctly and in the right context by considering different uses.



Plate No, 7 Ladies in search of fodder, Nail & Watercolour, 40x50 cm, 2005



Plate No, 8 Fish in Space, Acrylic, 2x3 ft., 2008.



Plate No, 09. Student, Nail Drawing, 15x20 cm, 2008



Plate No, 10.APJ Abdul Kalam. Finger nail impression on Paper, 50x40 cm, 2002.

(Plate No 10, 12) primarily utilizes the amalgamation of nail texture and alterations in the portrait to convey her emotions. His works promote the practice of deriving forms from nature and creating more refined artistic representations. By combining the use of color, line and impression ornamentation with a waves point texture, the artwork achieves a powerful and distinctive personal statement.



Plate No 11. Sri Ram of Aayodhya, Fingernail impression on Paper, 12x 22cm, 2024



Plate No, 12. Life back to village, Finger nail and color on paper, 41x29 cm, 2020

Rich artistic expressions can be achieved with the texture under a variety of conditions, contingent upon how artists completely utilize it. (Plate No.8, 07 and 12) Artists can communicate emotions more correctly and in the right spot by using different purposes. Regarding the issue of using fingernail texture, it is important to consider the subjectivity, aesthetic judgment, viewpoints, and understanding of nail impression textures of the producers. Texture is highly subjective in both its application and comprehension



Figure no 13. Gratitude towards all Farmers, finger nail and colour on Paper, 26 21cm, 2020

It resembles a pattern of textures and lines on paper. (Plate No, 13) The points' hue and arrangement convey a sense of accumulation, unease, and dread. Concurrently, the piece was created during India's sharp corona virus pandemic crisis, and it also serves as a metaphor for the severe societal violence those farmers face. The artist subjective judgment, aesthetic preferences, worldview, and knowledge of nail impression textures are crucial to the fingernail texture problem. Everyone has their own unique perspective on texture and how to use it.

Conclusion:

Within the realm of visual arts, Shekhar Joshi possesses a vast amount of expertise and is considered to be one of the most talented artists and art educators. Since the beginning of his career, he has utilized a variety of techniques in order to create the works of art that he has produced. By merging western and current visual language, he was able to extend his visual vocabulary through alternative media. Additionally, he incorporated and intended a technique in Indian art, and he made significant use of his nails in order to create the contour. He worked with the social life of Indians, the environment in which they lived, Indian culture, and the manner of life. Through the works that he produced, he endeavoured to capture the essence of Indian culture. Additionally, he has presented a number of techniques that allow him to make use of structures and compositional techniques in order to deal with the rooted and traditional visual values. To develop a fresh perspective, he demonstrated the various formats and mediums that are available. Among contemporary painters, he is one of the rare handfuls who have taken this view of the medium's potential. Art as language is central to his practice, and he is a very adaptable artist. He takes great pleasure in pursuing aesthetic uniformity across a range of dimensions, media, sizes, technologies, and methods of representation.

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