

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Changing World of Visual Arts

Q1. Who was Johann Zoffany? What were the features of his painting?

Ans.

Q2. Why do you think some artists wanted to develop a national style of art?

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Q1. Who was Johann Zoffany? What were the features of his painting?

Ans. One of the most famous of the European painter was Johann Zoffany. He was born in Germany, migrated to England and came to India in the mid-1780s for 5 years. In his paintings, he showed Indians as submissive, inferior and as serving their white masters. He showed the British as superior, imperious: British flaunting their clothes, stand regally or sit arrogantly, and live life of luxury. Indians usually occupy a shadowy background in his painting.

Q2. Why do you think some artists wanted to develop a national style of art?

Ans. Some artists rejected the art of Ravi Varma as imitative and westernised and declared that such a style was unsuitable for depicting the nation's ancient myths and legends. They felt that a genuine Indian style of painting had to draw inspiration from non-Western art traditions, and try to capture the spiritual essence of the East. So they broke away from the convention of oil painting and the realistic style, and turned for inspiration to medieval Indian traditions of miniature painting and the ancient art of mural painting in the Ajanta caves.