

PAHARI Miniature Paintings

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The Origin:

- The exact origin of miniature painting style practised at the Hindu Courts in Himalyan Foothills remain unknown.
- Frist known examples were in the states of Basohli, Kahlur and Mankot , painted in 1650.
- The invasion of India and the sack of Delhi in 1739 provided the catalyst for refinement of Pahari Art.
- The Rajasthani Hindu courts welcomed the displaced Mughal artists. The Hill elements of realism and Mughal Craftmanship from “The Muhammad Shahi revival ” contributed significantly to the evolving Pahari aesthetics.

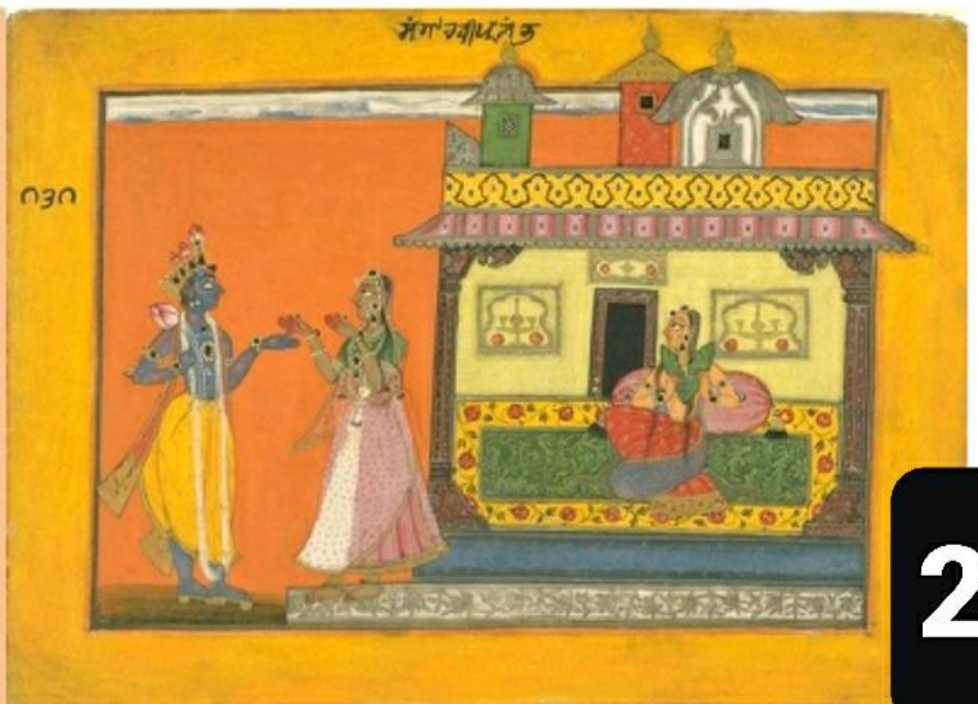
Pahari, Basohli

*Krishna Arriving at
Radha's House,
Rasamanjari of Bhanudatta*

1660-70

Key features

- Flat red background and an ornate pavillion
- Rich colour scheme
- Gargoyle-like ornament on the base of pavillion



Pahari, Mandi

*Raja Shamsheer Sen
with his son Surma
Sen,
Mandi ,1775*

Key features

- *The plain, vivid powder-blue background and the stiff, boldly striped carpet*
- *Smaller figure of prince*



Pahari, Guler

*The arrest of Spies,
Seige of Lanka, Ramayana*
Pahari guler 1725

Key features

- *The series illustrates the activities of Rama and his allies before climactic battle of Lanka*
- *On the reverse, they were inscribed with text of the great epic poem.*

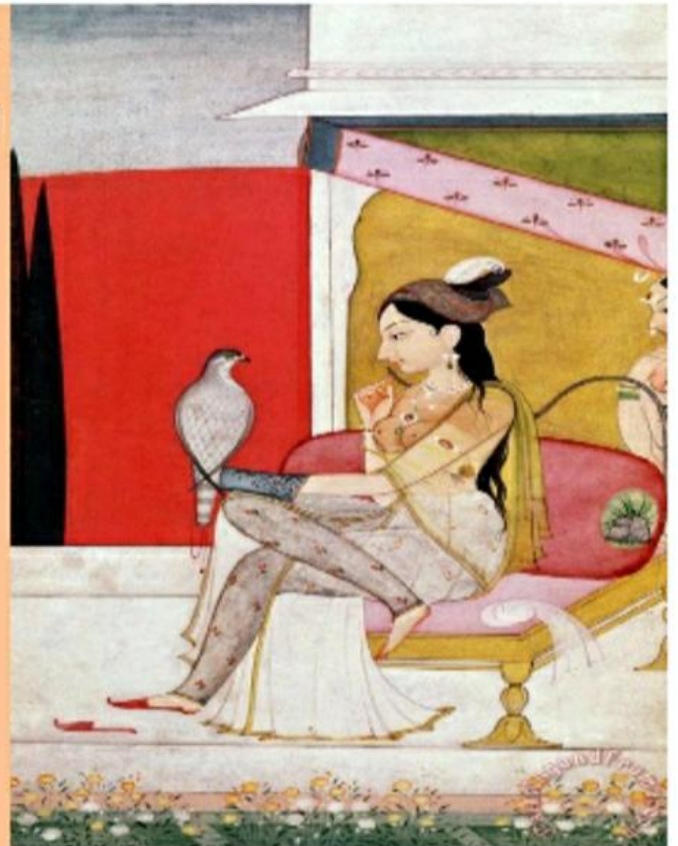


Pahari, Guler

Lady with a Hawk **Guler, 1750**

Key features:

- Set after twenty-five years of Siege of Lanka, the Mughal Influence has set itself into the mainstream style
- The subtle tones and shading skilfully depict the flesh tones, sheer fabrics and the setting in the inner apartment of the palace.



Pahari, Jammu

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*Raja Balwant
Singh of Jammu
smoking alone
on a Palace roof
in the rains
(July-August
1751)*

By the master artist of
Jammu court,
Nainsukh



Pahari, Kangra

Introduction of love and romance in art

7a

*Radha and
Krishna in the
Grove (1780)*



From the atelier of Raja
Sansar Chand
(1775-1823)

7b

The Kangra Style

- generally have a central elegant female form
- expresses an innocent and open sensuality
- features traditionally symbolic elements (dark clouds, rain, swing in this work)



The Swing (1790)

Pahari, Garhwal

Considerably influenced by Kangra

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*The Road to
Krishna (1780)*



Illustrating an
episode from
Bhagavata Purana