

RITUAL, WOMEN, AND ART IN MITHILA

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ABSTRACT

Religious practice paved the way for Mithila painting to grow as a cultural phenomenon. In addition, the literature of the region further shaped its growth in corporation with the agricultural life style of common folk. Mithila painting, in the long run, is the product of interaction between the people who cultivated the mind and the one who cultivated the land. Although the painting was considered a sensual practice especially during Pauranic age, its observance on the Vedic altar to appease Gods and Goddesses helped the painting to depict on the floors and walls of mud houses of Maithils. In due course, women developed it as a ritual activity in their own domain to appease their deities for the well-being of their family members as well as to protect from the malicious nature. Likewise, Mithila painting expanded in each and every occasion, festival, and celebration in the entire Mithila region. This research article incorporates observation, interview and text analysis as the methods of study.

KEYWORDS: *Ritual, Aripan, Kohbar, Tantra & Women*