

KERALA MURAL PAINTINGS



The word mural

The word 'mural' is derived from the Latin word 'murus', meaning 'wall'. Murals refer to paintings embellished on visual components like the wall, ceiling, or other huge lasting surfaces.



KERALA MURAL

Kerala mural paintings are the **frescos** depicting **Hindu mythology** and legends, which are drawn on the walls of temples and churches in **South India**, principally in **Kerala**. Ancient temples and palaces in **Kerala**, **South India**, display an abounding tradition of **mural** paintings mostly dating back between the 9th to 12th centuries CE when this form of art enjoyed Royal patronage. These days even Churches in Kerala are commissioning mural paintings with Christian motifs.

The Colors

Panchvarna namely, yellow, red, green, black and white, prepared from mineral pigments and vegetables. These paintings belong to a distinguished lineage with its tradition carries influences from Ajanta. The themes are depicted using common iconographic symbols from the Puranas like Ramayana and Mahabharata from the Hindu mythology, which is illustrated highly with brilliance stylistically. The expressions are depicted with artistic mastery.

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Common themes are of
various incarnations **Vishnu,**
Ganesha, and manifestations
of **Siva.**

Painting brush. Is a grass!

- Flat brush – Made from the hair taken from the back of the ears of the calves
- Medium brush – Made from the hair found under the goat's belly
- Fine brush – Made from the delicate blades of grass or tails of muskrats.
- Eyyam Pullu , a local leaf is treated and tied to the bamboo sticks

The stages of painting

- First Stage: Lekhya Karma – Stage of sketching using a pencil or crayon.
- Second Stage: Rekha Karma – Outlines made on the sketches
- Third Stage: Varna Karma - Painting with colours of the human figures depending on the characters and common qualities. **Green is used to represent divine and noble characters (Saatvik); shades of red represents power and wealth (Raajasik), lowly mean characters (tamasik) are depicted in white and demons in black.**
- Fourth Stage: Vartana Karma - Shading is done.
- Fifth Stage: Lekha Karma -Final outlines of the painting, usually painted in black.
- Sixth Stage or the Final Stage: Dvika Karma - The final and the finishing touches are done to the painting.

On completion, the mural is offered **Pooja and worshipped with ritual songs**, which is handed from one generation to another through vocal traditions only.





Gajendra Moksha.

The largest mural panel in Kerala called the Gajendra Moksha is at the Krishnapuram Palace near Kayamkulam in Alappuzha district.

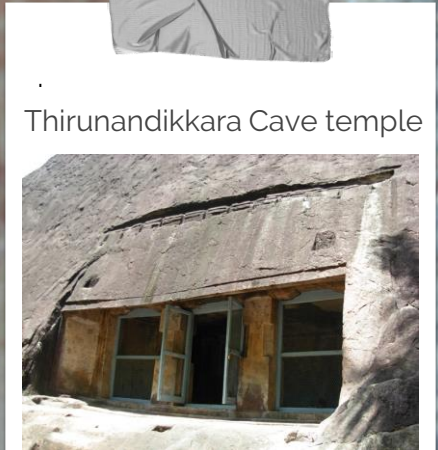
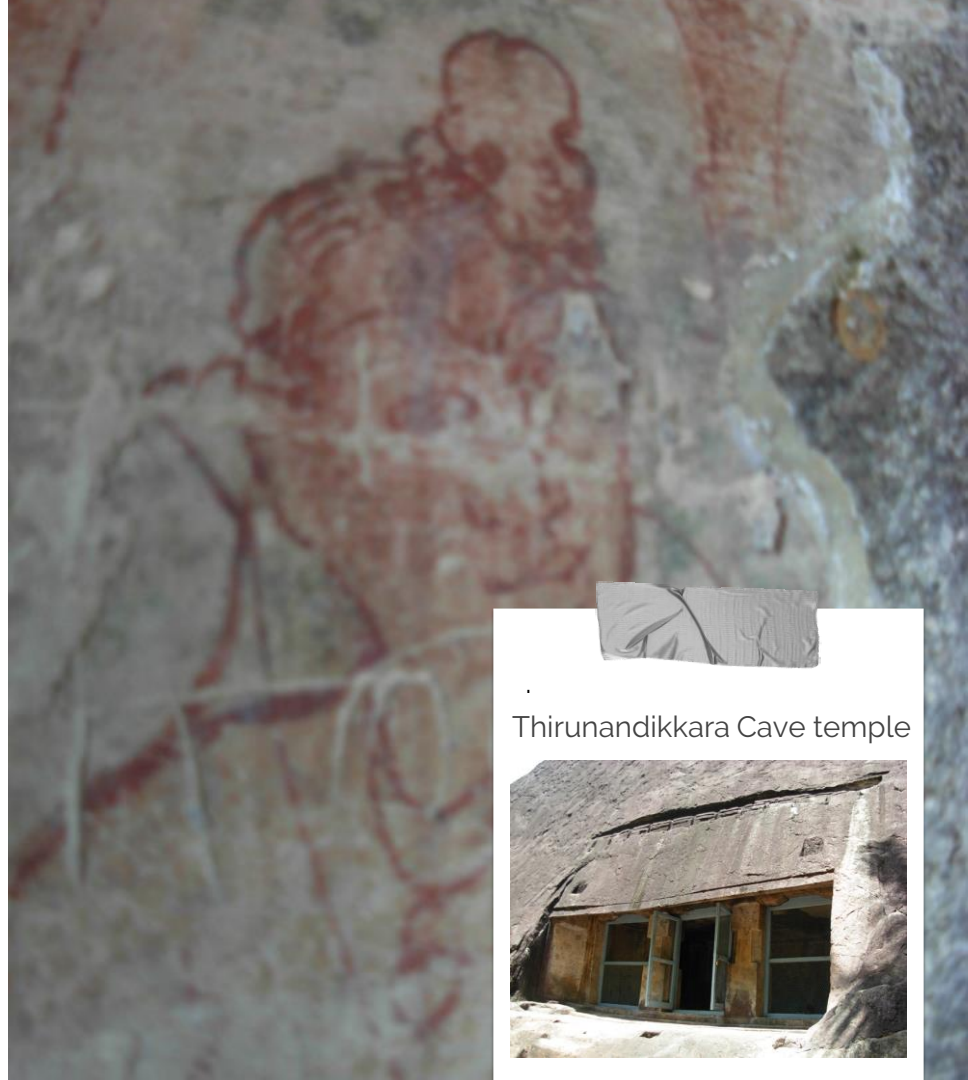
Tip

Vishnu came down to earth to protect **Gajendra**, the elephant, from the clutches of Makara, the Crocodile, and with **Vishnu's** help, **Gajendra** achieved **moksha**, or salvation.

No Records

The oldest of the murals found in Kerala are those in the **Thirunandikkara Cave temple** now a part of Kanyakumari district in the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu.

No pictures of this painting is available.



Starts with Yellow

- The first shade of color used in Kerala Mural is yellow
- The second shade is followed by red
- The colors used on the human figures, depend on the characters and common qualities
- Blue was introduced much later



The beauty of colors

- The colors are richly painted and brought to life with black outlines
- The colorful representation brings a sense of glamour, tranquility and charm to the Kerala murals
- Pre-historic stories retold in the murals
- The spiritual divine wealth is depicted in shades of green, golden yellow and red.





**Mural paintings are
a big asset to kerala.**

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Visit for more details:

<http://dsource.in/resource/kerala-murals>