

MUGHALS AND MARKETS
IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY:
THE ART OF M.A.R. CHUGHTAI

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4:10 PM
Art 210 D

This presentation explores the artistic expression of M.A.R. Chughtai, today considered the father of modern painting in Pakistan. Chughtai's artistic career began as the struggle for India's independence from British rule was escalating. As part of a movement that sought to demonstrate a refusal of Western standards, Chughtai turned away from styles of painting that were associated with British authority, which had displaced local artistic traditions. Arising from the nexus of Orientalism, colonialism, nationalism, and modernity, the concept of artistic authenticity in South Asia became tied to religious affiliation and ethnicity. Chughtai subscribed to such notions of authenticity and even drew on Orientalist imagery popular in Europe. However, an examination of Chughtai's career shows how his work came to challenge Orientalist and colonial rhetoric. Asking what constitutes authentic expression and who possesses the right to representation, Chughtai's paintings signal a vital moment of resistance in British India.

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Please join us. Light refreshments will be served.