

Folk Painting: A History Defined

When defining folk art, folk painting in particular, the terms “naïve, folk, primitive and provincial” occur quite frequently. In actuality, folk paintings are non-academic, colorful, two-dimensional paintings by artists who were self-taught or have had minimal training. There are a number of items you should be aware of if studying this art form.

- ❖ **Time Period:** Folk painting is recognized as beginning in the 17th century and continues even today.
- ❖ **Types:** Portraits, landscapes, theorems, calligraphy, wall-murals, genre scenes of everyday life, furniture decoration, and fireboards are all included under the definition of Folk Painting.
- ❖ **Subject Matter:** Folk painting is the result of an individual’s need to record their surroundings and images of themselves. The best examples exhibit a combination of naturalness and simplicity.
- ❖ **Mediums:** The most-used mediums are oils, tempera, watercolors, pastels, and even pencil and ink drawings that are commonly executed on canvas, board, paper, cardboard or anything that could be painted on.
- ❖ **References for further study:**
 - Folk Painters of America- Robert Bishop - 1979.
 - American Folk Portraits - Colonial Williamsburg - 1981.
 - American Folk Painters of Three Centuries - Lipman & Armstrong-Whitney Museum of Art- 1980

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