

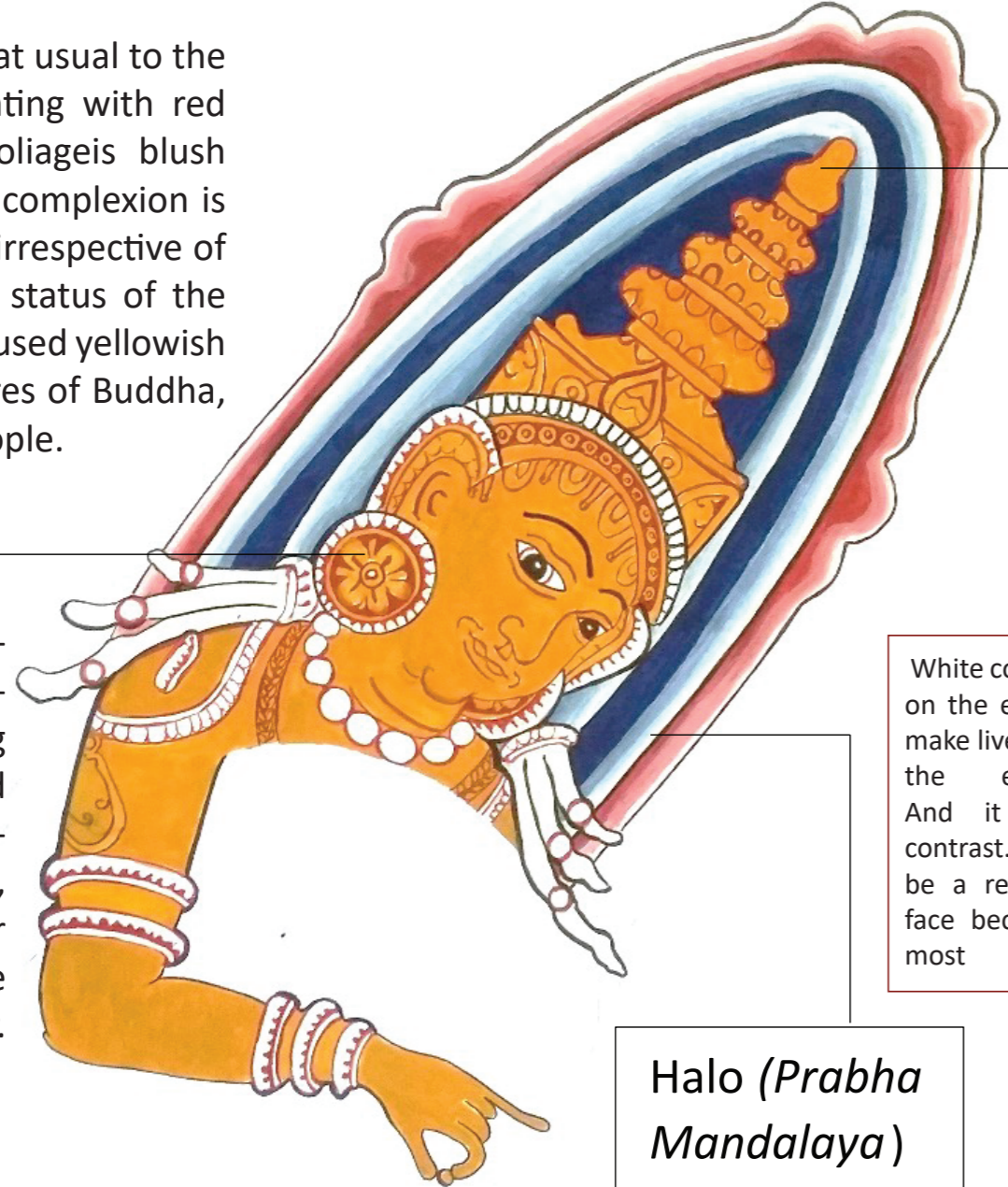


Figure God sakka, Vessanthara jathaka painting at Madavala temple



LEMENT - "GOD SAKKA" PAINTING - "VESSANTHARA JATHAKA" TEMPLE - MADAVALA TEMPLE

The color scheme is that usual to the Kandyan Style of painting with red predominating. The foliage is bluish grey in color. The skin complexion is generally light in tone irrespective of the religious or social status of the person. Early painters used yellowish color for the high figures of Buddha, Gods and high cast People.

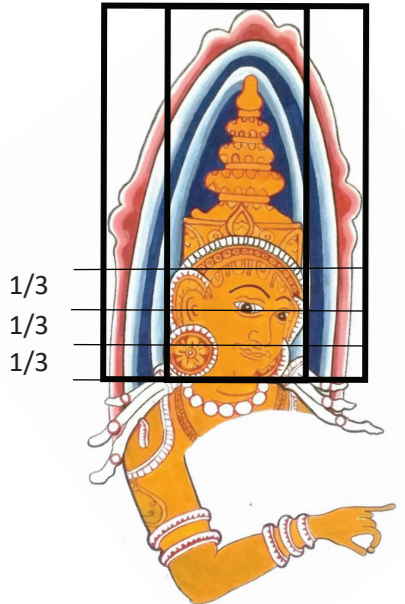


Head Ornament
Head ornament similar to body color. It apply as flat color and painted in opec coloring system. The Head ornament special with the patterns which done by red color lines, white and black color pattern makes contrast look. And it looks like textured surface. Royal and sacred look. Two white color part which place to right and left sides - contrast from element. 17% people said that part is not suitable to the element. Elders idea It is a unique part to a god. Increases honourable look of the element.

White color dots on the eye balls make live look of the element. And it makes contrast. It might be a reason to face become as most focusing

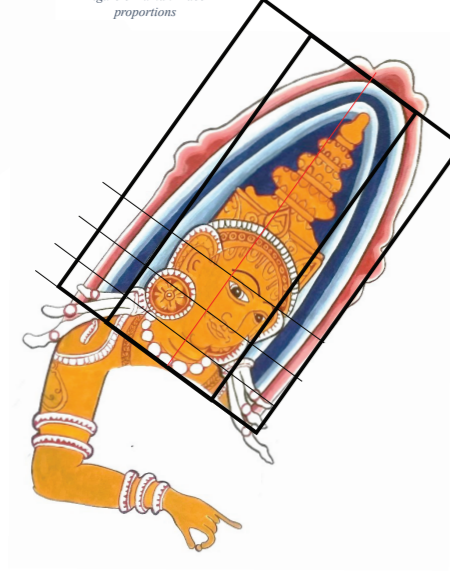
Ear Rings
The ear ornament - used contrasting coloring method. Enhancing the Kandian period technology it's highlighted the patterns, using the red color background around the middle flower.

Figure Redrawn picture of God Sakka

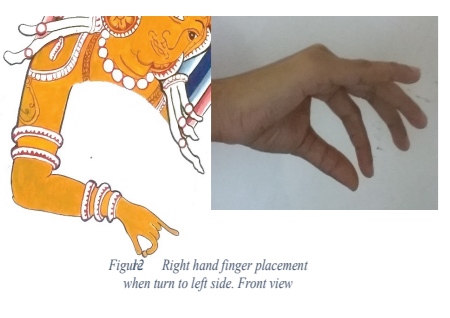


Face Proportion approximately similar to the ratio of human face. Some times it might be a reason to face become the most focusing

Combination of eyes, nose and mouth makes honorable look. Elders ideas that features are different from the human features. Their idea was those might be bigger than humans.



Semmetric lines show, face is turn to the left side. In scenario the god is in the sky and looks down. Right side eye bigger than left side one: Createts Perspective effect



The hand posture is contrasting. The god turn to left side and the depicted hand is right hand, but the fingers are different. It just like a left hand. Some times painter might draw the element while looking at his left hand and getting reference to draw hand. 6% people observed that difference.

Thick, Thin lines - Out lining, The detailed the ornaments, prepared patterns and keep continuity. Outlining lines are sharp - Understand the components, boundaries. It might be done for create three dimensional effect of the element. Curve lines - Create Honourable look of this element. The geometricity in the line of the body is emphasized.

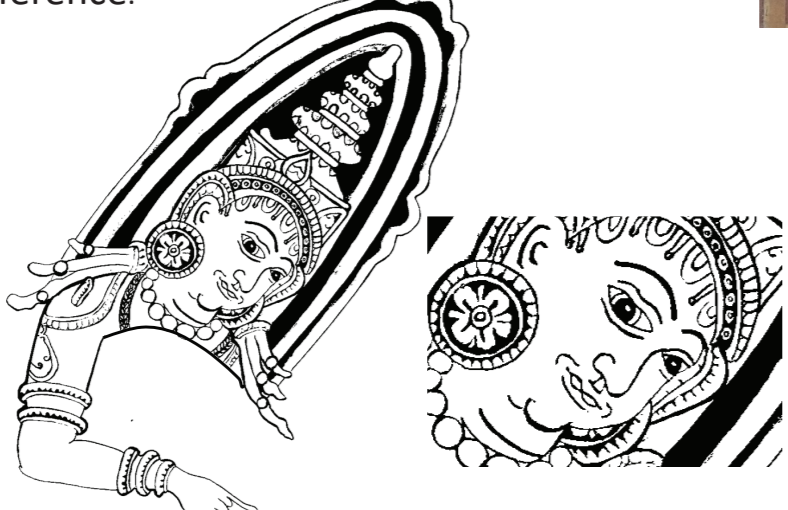


Figure Line drawing of the element

The most leading line took the focal point of the element. Facial features - eyes, nose, mouth are done by clear different thickness lines. Horizontal line of the head ornament - stability and permanent look. Vertical lines - Reaching upwards. And it may suggest height.



Similar Forms

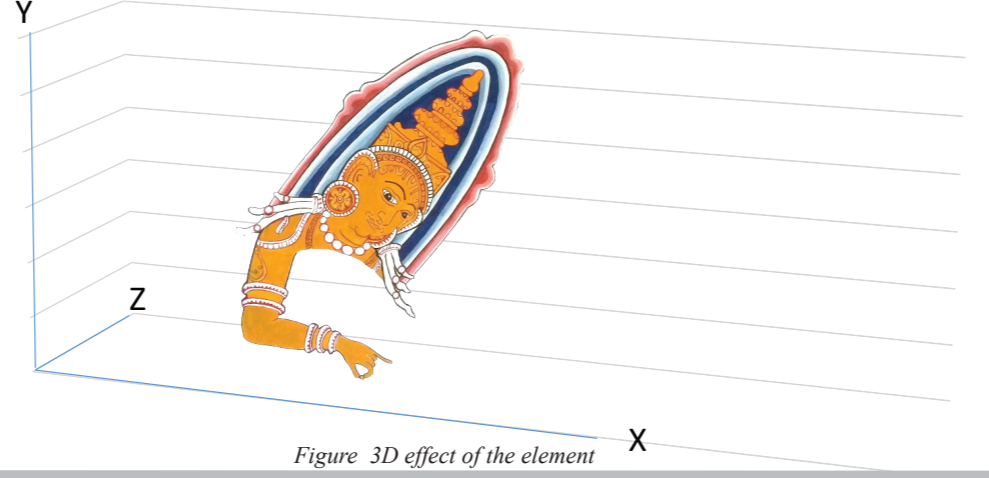
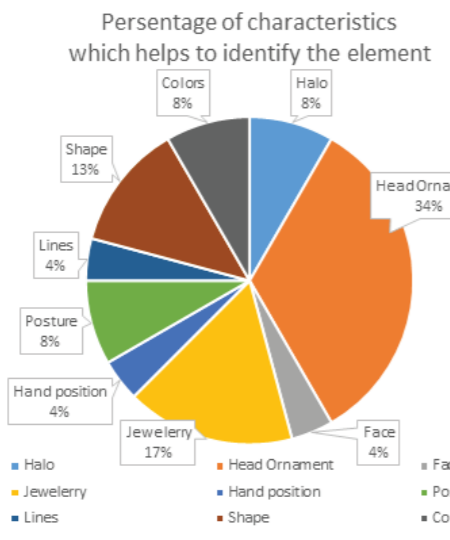


Figure 3D effect of the element

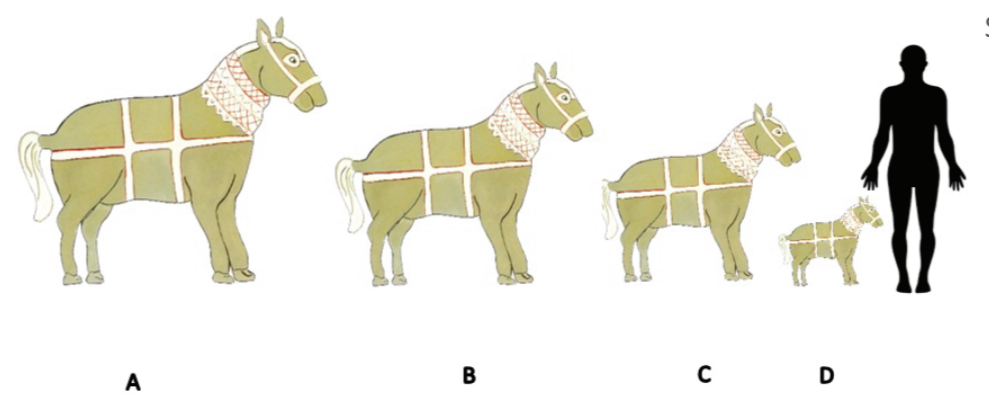
Structure and Layout

Horse figure proportionately different with the real horse figure. The horse full height is short. Horse leg height should be taller. Comparing with the real horse 66% answer is element similar to some extent to the real element.

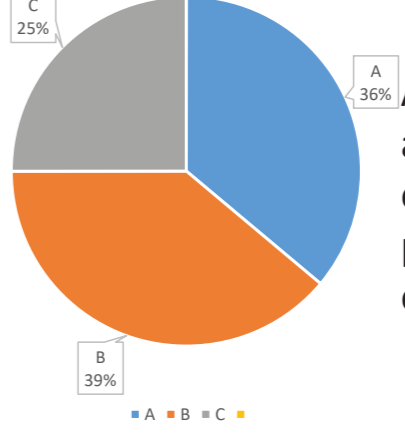
Identified answers -
Horse - 61%
Donkey - 28%
Cow - 11%

When comparing to the nearest human figures it can easily understand. And also it has shorter length when compare to the real horse.

Leg height : Body height = 1.5: 1
Height of leg approximately take half of total height of the horse.



Size according to Human figure



Answer to the scale comparison human and the horse figure, 39% of them selected "B" and 36% selected answer "A". It's proved the proportional difference of the element.

Line

Lines used for the outlining purpose. Separate the element from the background. They used different line thicknesses to construct the element.



Figure Different line sizes on the neck decoration.

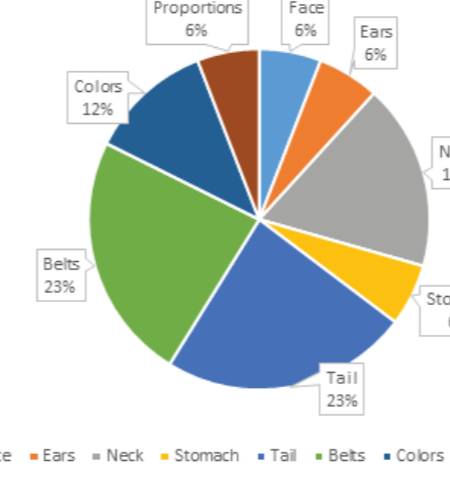
Decoration on horse neck might be done to show the royal look of the horse. 18% of participants first focusing point

On Degaldoruwa temple paintings artists didn't try to make three dimensional effects, perspective effects on the paintings. It's difficult to understand the different layers of the picture. Participants answers were different. It might be happen because of the low 3d effects on the picture.

Shapes and Forms

Head ornament is a most unique feature to a god. Most memorable characteristic of god. Most of the time Head ornament depicted in semmetrically, there are repetitive shapes on ornament to create patterns

Unmatching parts of the element



Distract shape to identify
Belt - 23%
Tail - 23%

Only standing posture, not showing movements of the horse.

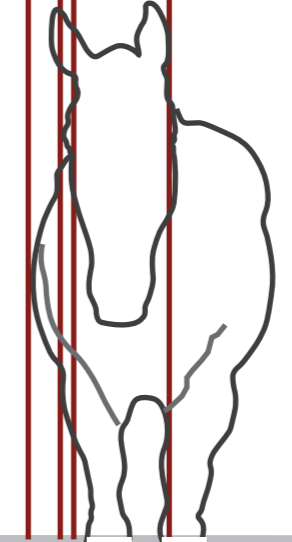


Figure 3D effect of the element

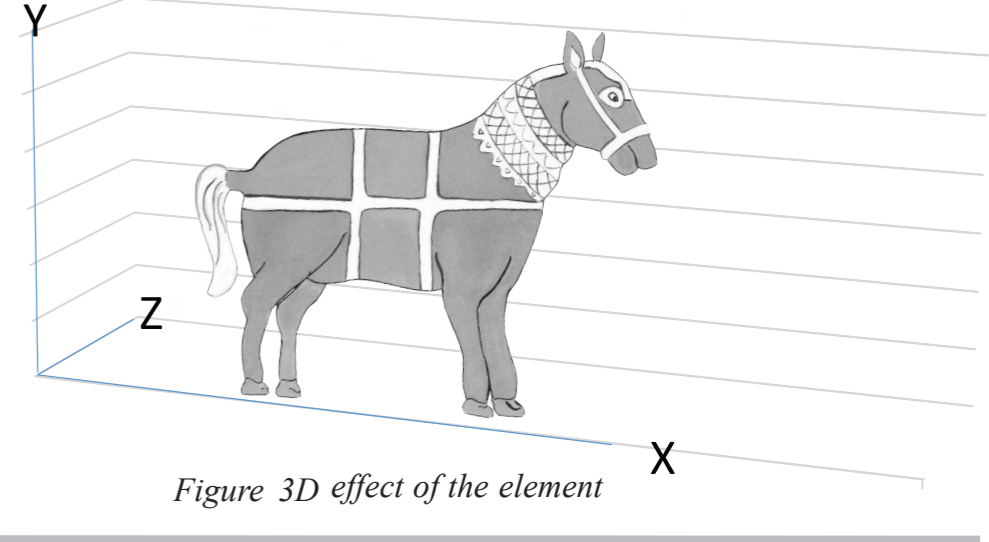


Figure 3D effect of the element

Abstraction of Natural and Mythical Design Elements in the 18th century Temple Paintings of Sri Lanka

FARU 2020 International Research Conference

Sri Lanka possess over 200 Buddhist temples with mural painting, scattered throughout the island. These paintings were done as a form of veneration, and as a mode of teaching the devotee of Buddha's previous lives. This research evaluates two elements, "God Sakka" - "Vessantara Jataka", Madavala temple and "Horse", - "Vessanthara Jataka", Degaldoruwa cave temple. The 18th century temple paintings were a creation of artistic communities for the communication of general laymen, this research is a brief attempt to understand how visual communication was handled by artists to communicate it to different communities. Reason for selecting just two natural and mythical elements found on painting is to better understand about the method of constructing the abstract forms in depth and also to know about the artist's knowledge on human perception. For data collection method, literature review, direct observation, a questionnaire with 15- 60 age group and Interviews with over 60 years elders were done. The selected elements were directly observed and methods of their formation were confirmed through a literary survey. With the combination of data, an attempt is finally made to analyze the communicative methods used for human visual perception by the ancient artist through the design principles and elements used.