

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086**  
**(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2019 – 2020)**

**B.V.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2026**  
**BRANCH – X – VISUAL ARTS**  
**EIGHTH SEMESTER**

**COURSE : MAJOR – CORE**  
**PAPER : ART AND ITS HISTORIES**  
**SUBJECT CODE : 19FA/MC/AH85**  
**TIME : 3 HOURS** **MAX. MARKS: 100**

**SECTION A (4 x 10 = 40 marks)**

**ANSWER ANY 4 OUT OF 6 QUESTIONS:**

1. What does John Berger mean when he says every image embodies a way of seeing? Elaborate using any one example.
2. What are Partha Mitter's suggestions for an alternative history of Hindu art?
3. Briefly discuss the colonial ideas of 'decadence' and 'degeneration' in Indian art.
4. Analyse the concepts of 'Self' and 'Other', and 'Centre' and 'Periphery', with reference to any one postcolonial artwork.
5. In what ways did the work of women artists in the early 20th century resist or conform to traditional gender roles? Discuss with reference to an example.
6. Explain feminism, using Judy Chicago's *The Dinner Party* to discuss debates around biological versus socio-political representations of female identity.

**SECTION B (3 x 20 = 60 marks)**

**ANSWER ANY 3 OUT OF 4 QUESTIONS:**

7. "Men act and women appear. Men look at women. Women watch themselves being looked at." Discuss using the terms: surveyor, surveyed, objectification, male gaze.
8. Discuss the writings of James Fergusson and A.K. Coomaraswamy as being conceptually 'colonial' and 'post-colonial' respectively.
9. Consider any two women artists of the 16th century on their use of self-portraiture to claim acceptance as artists in the public sphere.
10. What does the Other Art History suggest about the relationship between gender, power, and representation in art history? Examine using any two examples.

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