

# **British Art Schools in India**

- The first **Government School of Design** was founded in London in **1837**, renamed the **Central Training School of Art** in **1853**, the **Normal Training School of Art** in **1857**, and the **National Art Training School** in **1863**.
- In **1896**, it was reformed and renamed the **Royal College of Art**, with the **Central School of Arts and Crafts** being founded by the London Country Council in December of the same year

- >English was made the language of Law Courts and administration from 1835 onwards.
- >Higher Education, commencing from 1854-7 was also imparted in English by establishing Bombay, Calcutta and Madras Universities.

### Objectives of India Education by British:

- i) To subdue, overwhelm and enslave the Indian mind -*Charles Grant, 1792-7*
- ii) We must do our best to form a class who may be interpreters between us and the millions whom we govern, a class of persons Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, words and intellect.  
-*Thomas Macaulay, 1835*, architect of Colonial Britain's Educational Policy in India.
- iii) To try to disseminate Christian religious ideology and to convert Indians to Christianity.

John Ruskin : *"..the Indian will not draw a form of nature but an amalgamation of monstrous objects... To all facts and forms of nature it willfully and resolutely opposes itself; it will not draw a man but an eight armed monster, it will not draw a flower but only a spiral or a zig zag"*.

George Birdwood (who took some interest in Indian decorative art) : *"...painting and sculpture as fine art did not exist in India."*

**1854** - Society of Industrial Art; later renamed as Government School of Art. The commencement of proper art education in British India can be dated back to 1839 when the Calcutta Mechanics' Institution and School of Art was founded by Frederic Corbyn

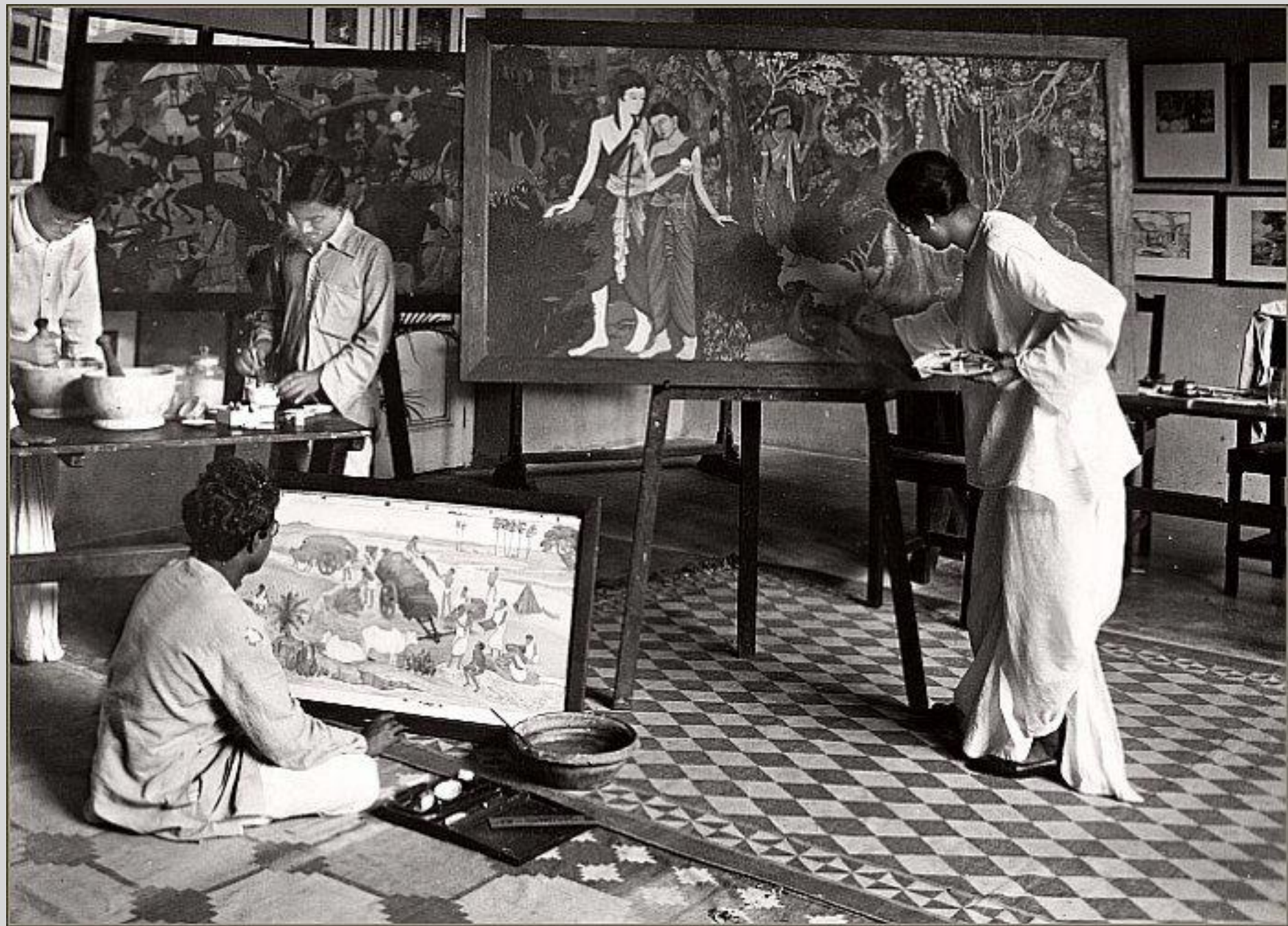
**1850** - art school in Madras, an initiative of resident surgeon, Dr. Alexander Hunter, Later renamed as Government School of Industrial Arts in **1852**.

**1857** - Parsi industrialist Jamsethji Jijibhayi offered funds to open an art school in Bombay; now Sir J.J. School of Art.

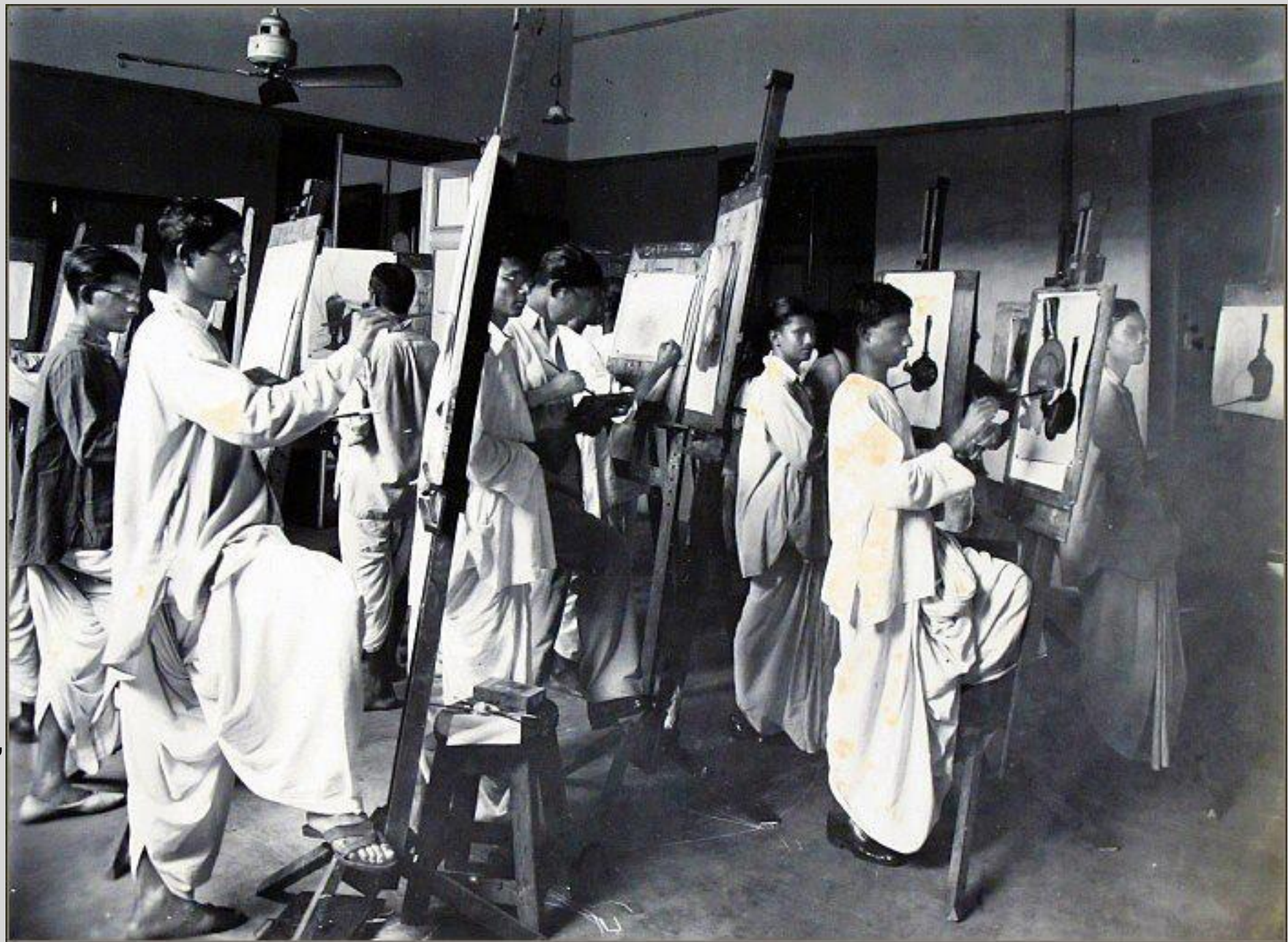
**1875** The Mayo School of Art, in memory of late Viceroy, Lord Mayo,.

Six prize students for the year 1865 from the University of Madras photographed by a photographer from the Madras School of Industrial Arts.





Still life class,  
Government School of Art,  
Calcutta, 1930s



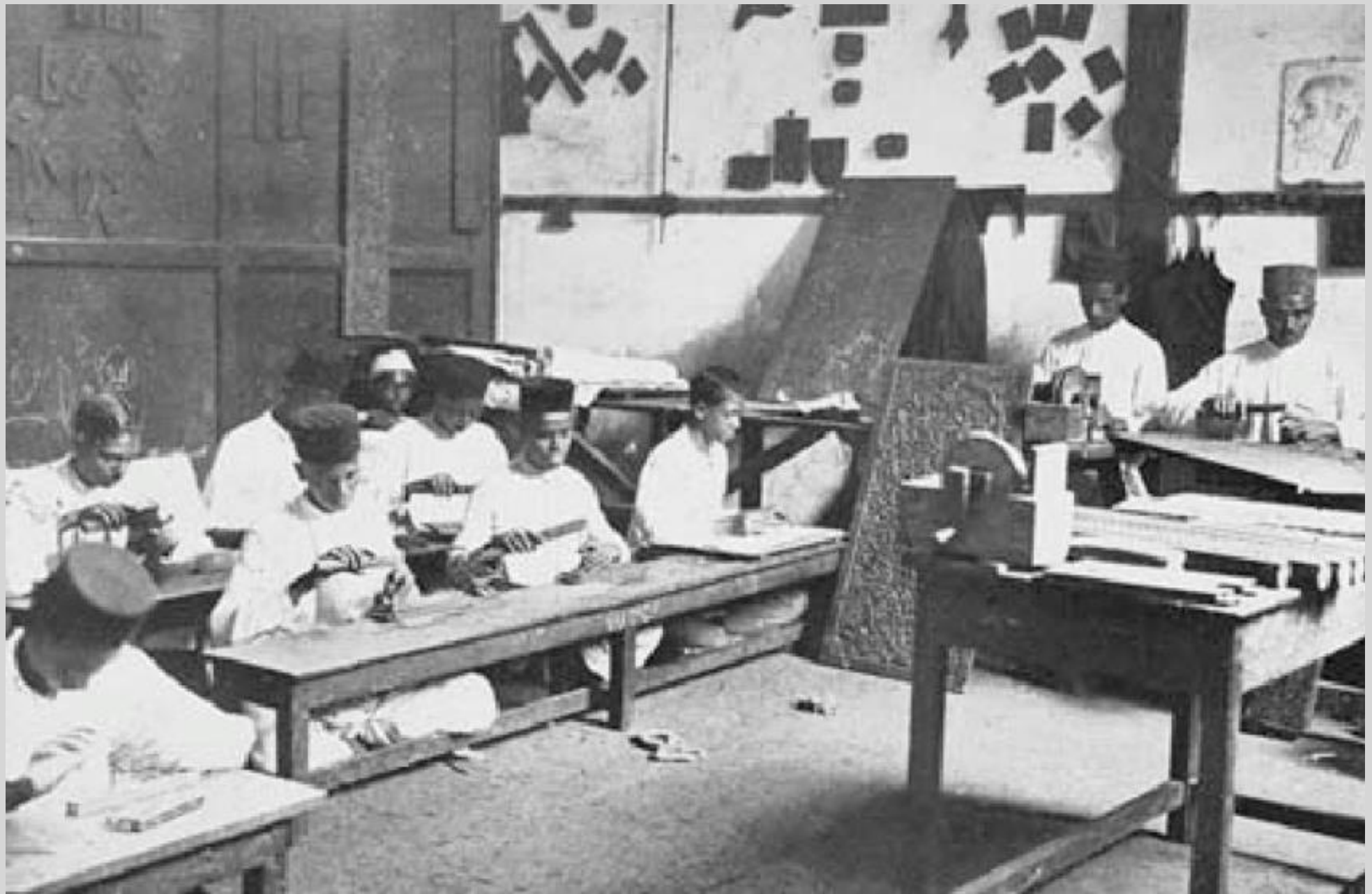


Life class,  
Government School of Art,  
Calcutta, 1930s

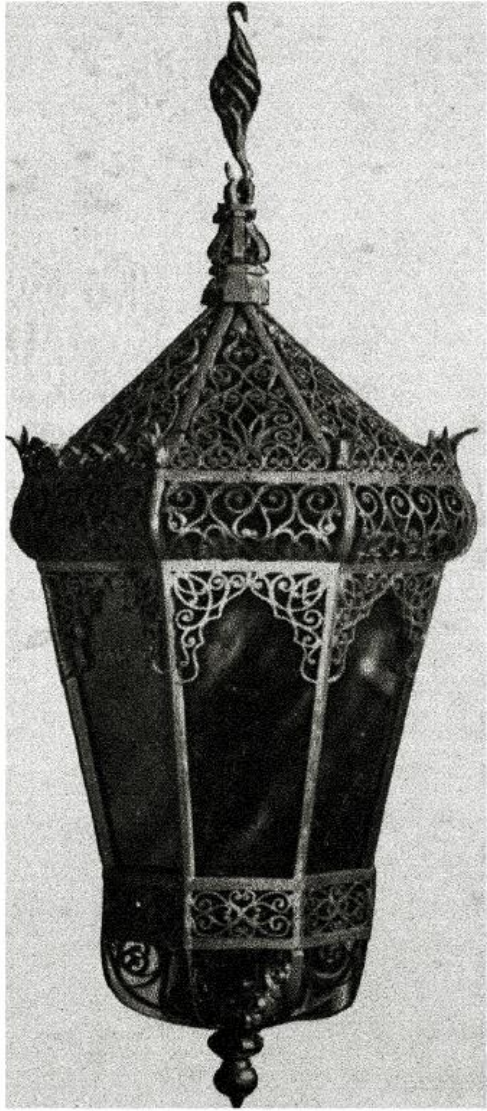




**The Bombay School of Art (Main Building).**



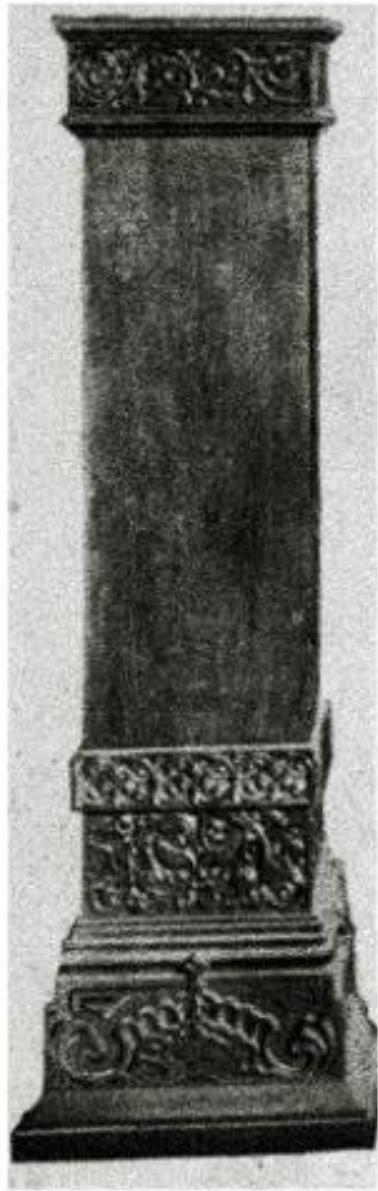
6 Reay Art Workshops, held at the J. J. School of Art in Bombay in the early 1890s. Master artisans from the surrounding regions were brought in to teach students.



**Brass Lamp (Reay Art Workshops).**



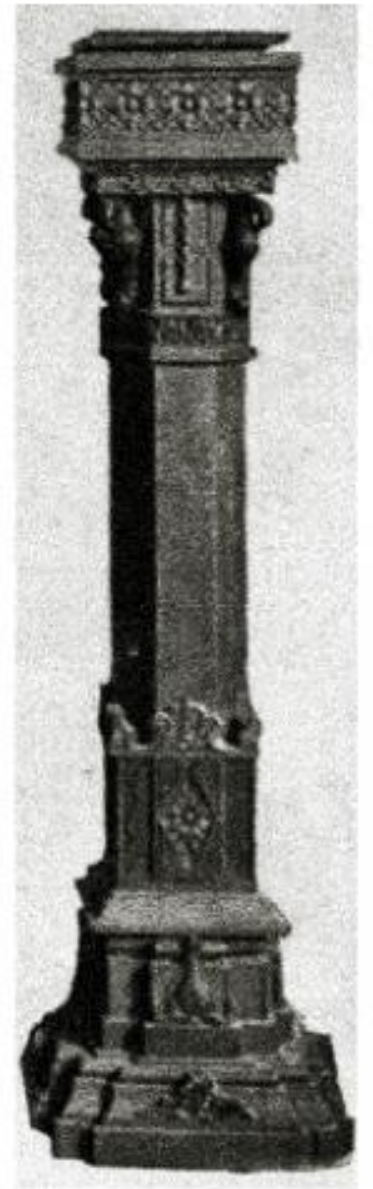
**Silver Articles (Reay Art Workshops).**



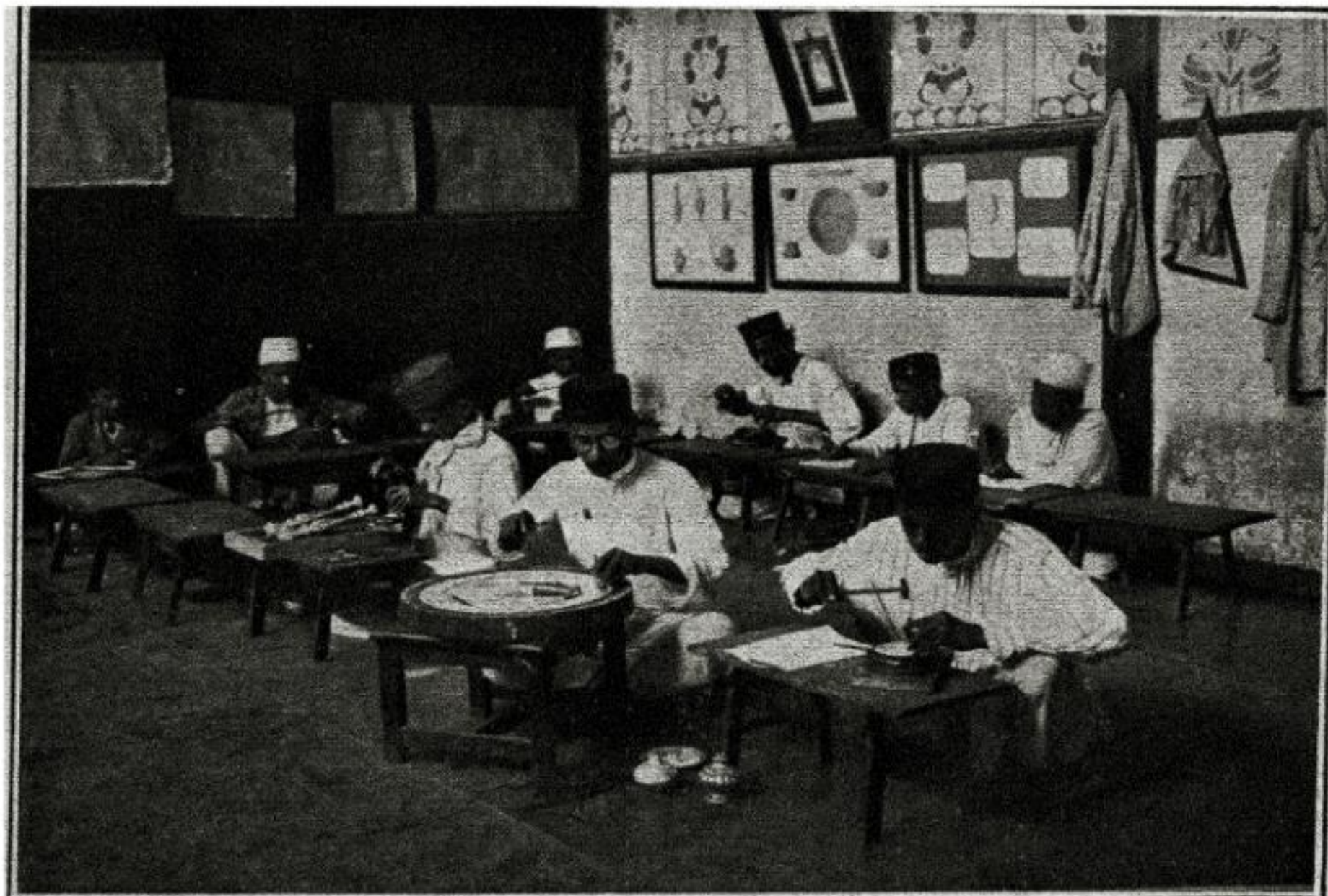
**Pedestal (Wood .**



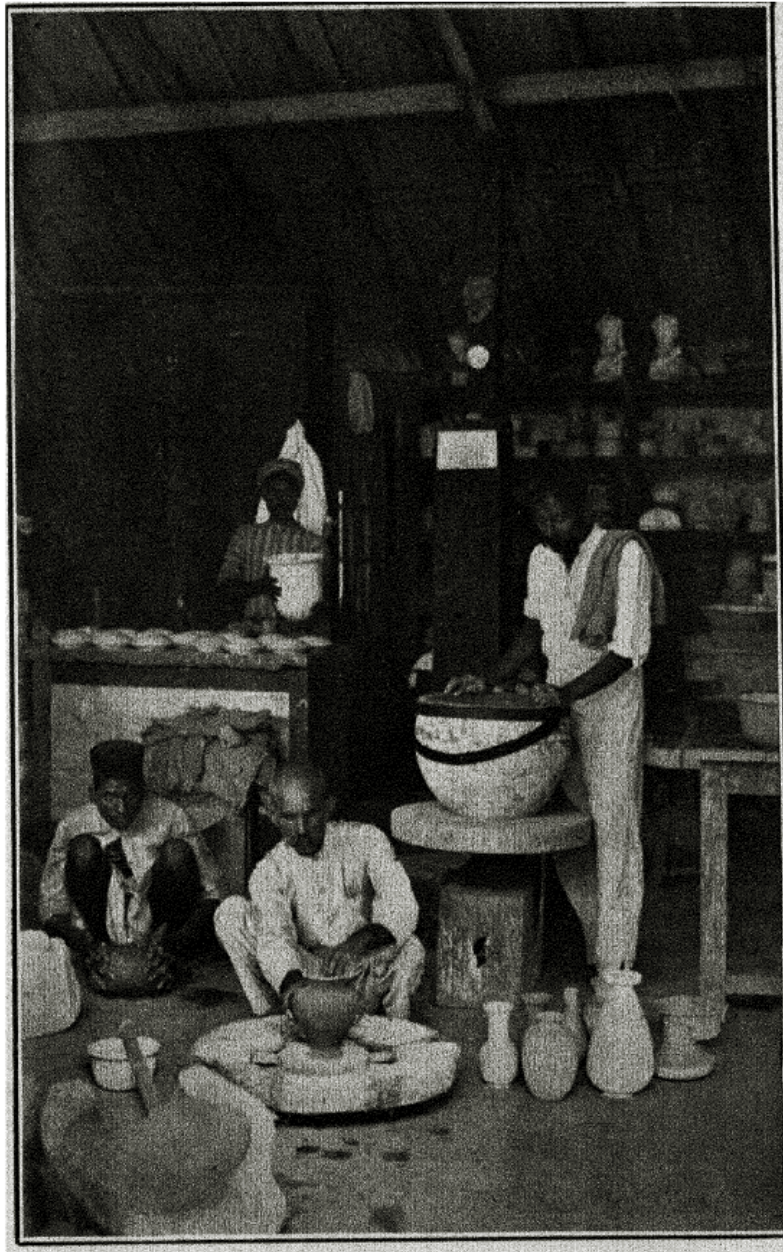
**The Chaurang (Beaten Brass).**



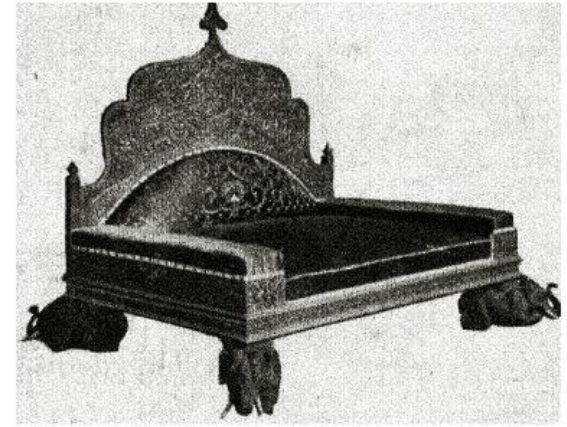
**Pedestal (Wood).**



**Brass and Copper Workers (Reay Art Workshops).**



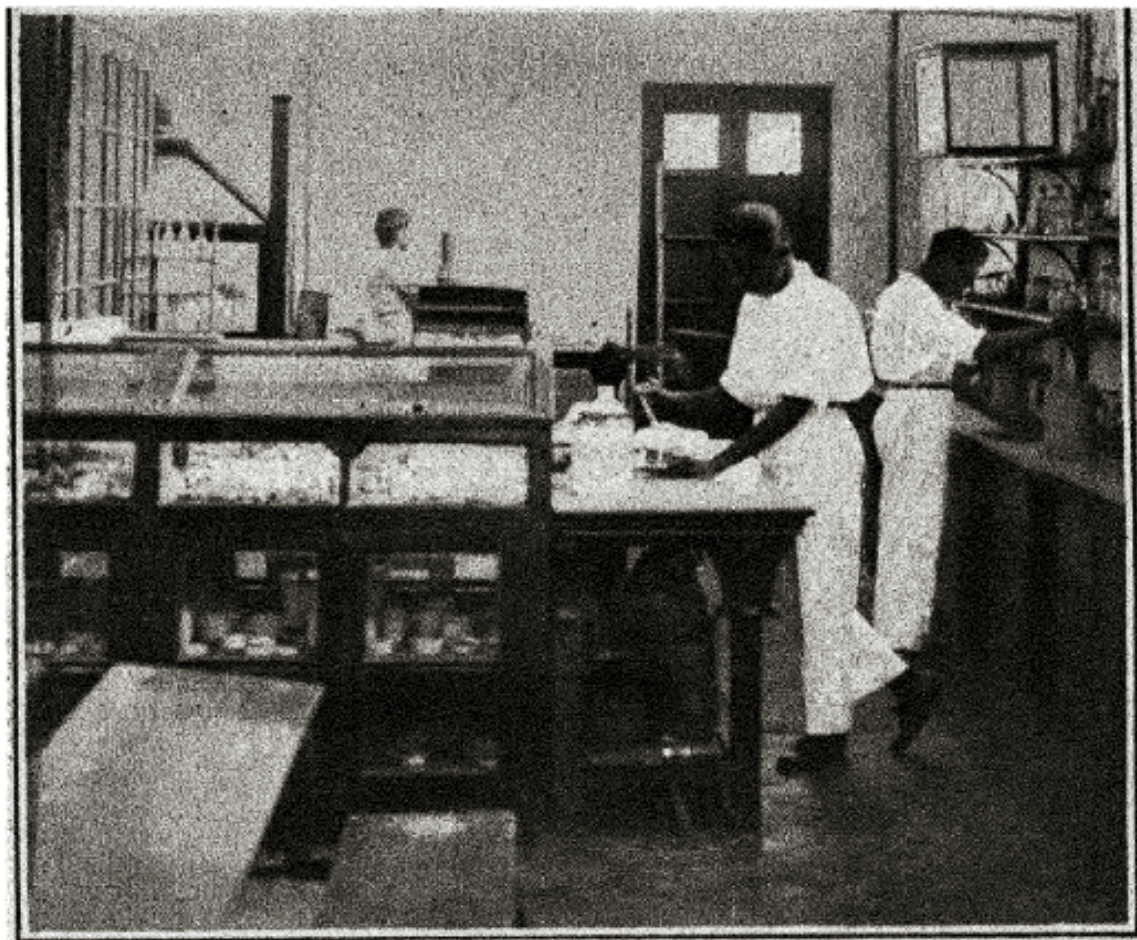
**The Potters' Wheel.**



**The "Gadi."**



**Carved Table.**

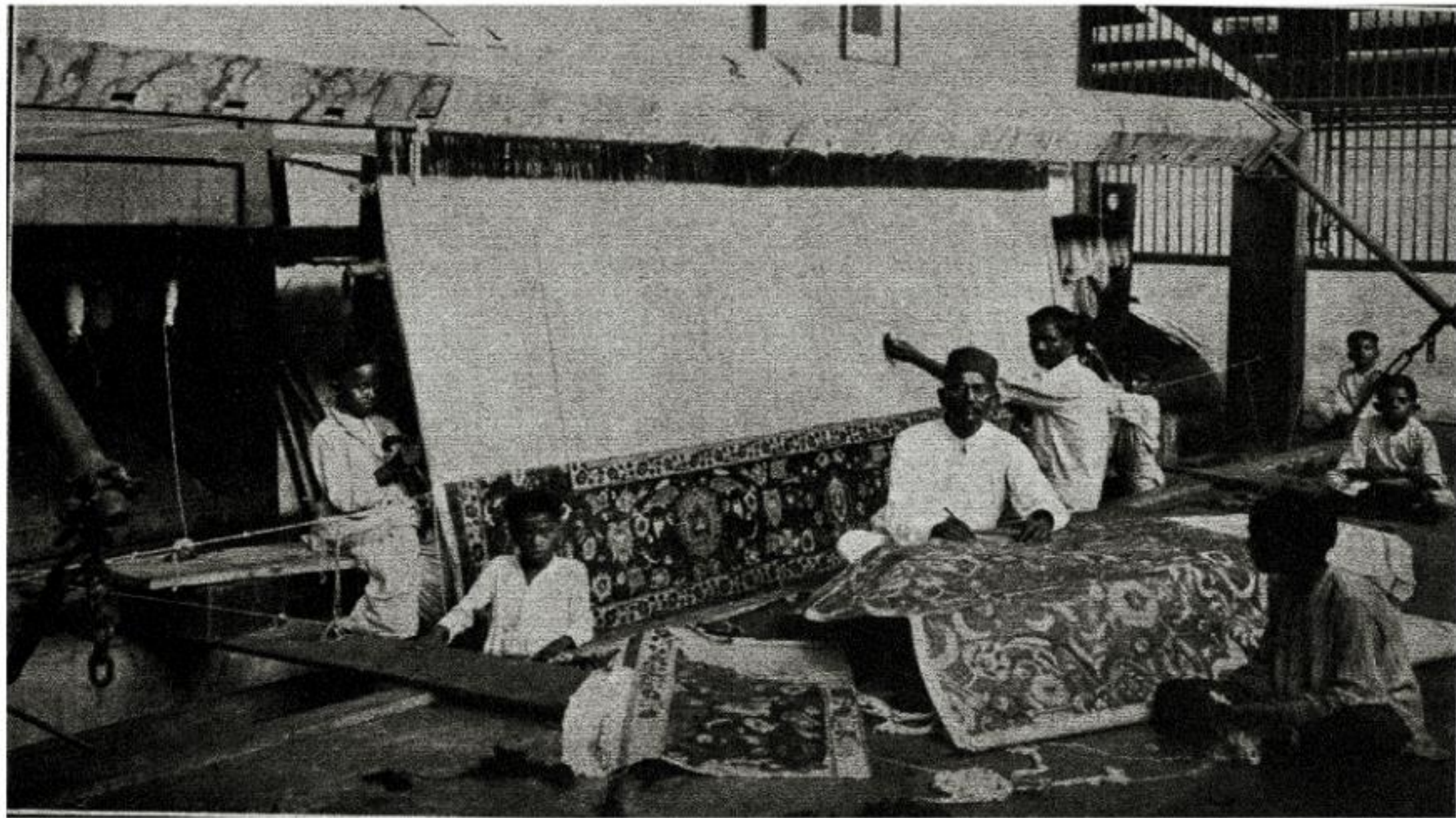


**The Pottery Dept. and some of its Vases.**





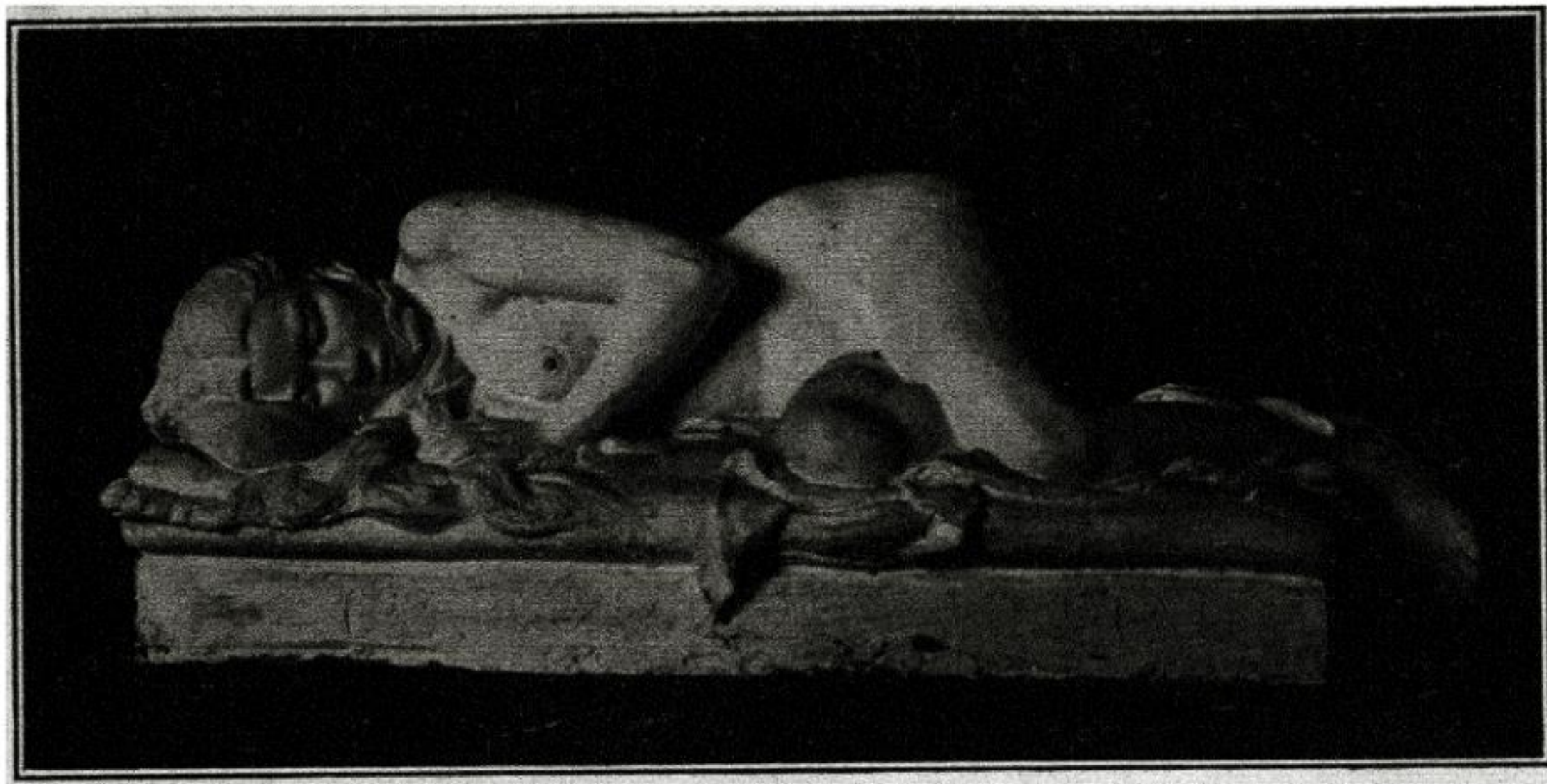
Vases prepared by students at the JJ School of Arts in the late 1880s



**Carpet-Weaving (Reay Art Workshops).**



**The Class of Mural Painting.**



**A Figure from Life.** By K. C. Roy (Modelling Class).





Nineteenth-century casts kept at the J.J.School of Art, Bombay. Companies like Messrs. Brucciani, located in Great Russell Street, London, supplied the pedagogical needs of the global DSA network.









Nineteenth-century casts kept at the J.J. School of Art, Bombay.





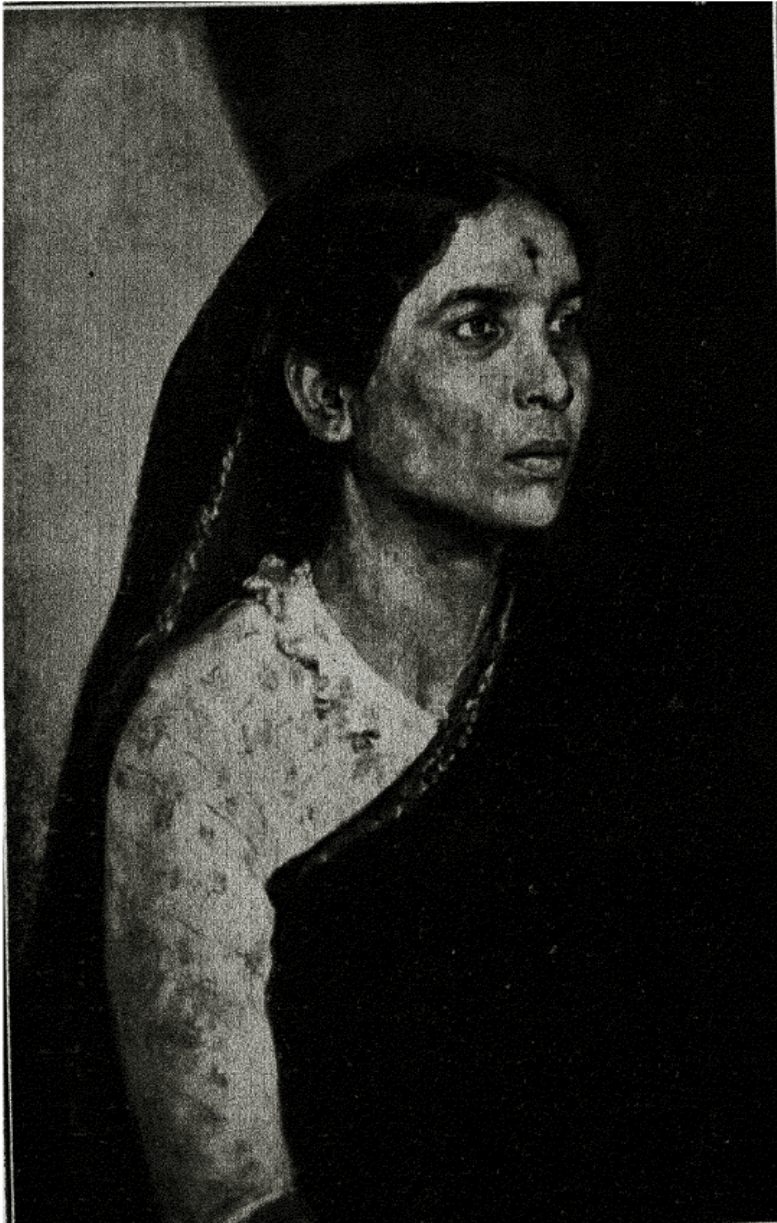
Tympanum in Crawford Market, Bombay, depicting trade in India, carved by John Lockwood Kipling and his students in c. 1869–71.



School being conducted in the South Kensington tradition at Birmingham, c. 1910.

A sketching session at the JJ School of Arts,  
Bombay, late 1930s





**Painting of a Head from Life.** By A. A. Bhonsale.



**Painting of a Draped Figure from Life.** By H. P. Chowdary.

The Mayo School of Industrial Art was set up in 1875 to perpetuate the memory of Lord Mayo, the British Viceroy of India, who was assassinated in 1872, was among the pioneer colonial art schools established in British India, besides the art schools in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

>British policy, regarding the arts, focused on teaching vocational skills and encouraging the “right taste” in aesthetics.

This plan which marginalized miniature painting put the indigenous artist and the traditional transmission of his skills into disarray, resulting in a significant segregation between art and craft.

>Their curriculum was based on the one used by the **Industrial School of South Kensington**, London, and stressed “scientific” or technical drawing geared to train the Indian artisan.

>John Lockwood Kipling, the first principal at Mayo School, had been teaching decorative sculpture for a decade at the art school in Bombay before he arrived to take charge of the school in Lahore. “It is the object of the Principal to make the institution emphatically a school of Industrial Art, and to give the boys a training that they can turn to practical account in later life.”

The curriculum, with its focus largely on instruction in drawing, modeling, wood working, architectural and decorative drawing with photography and lithography added later

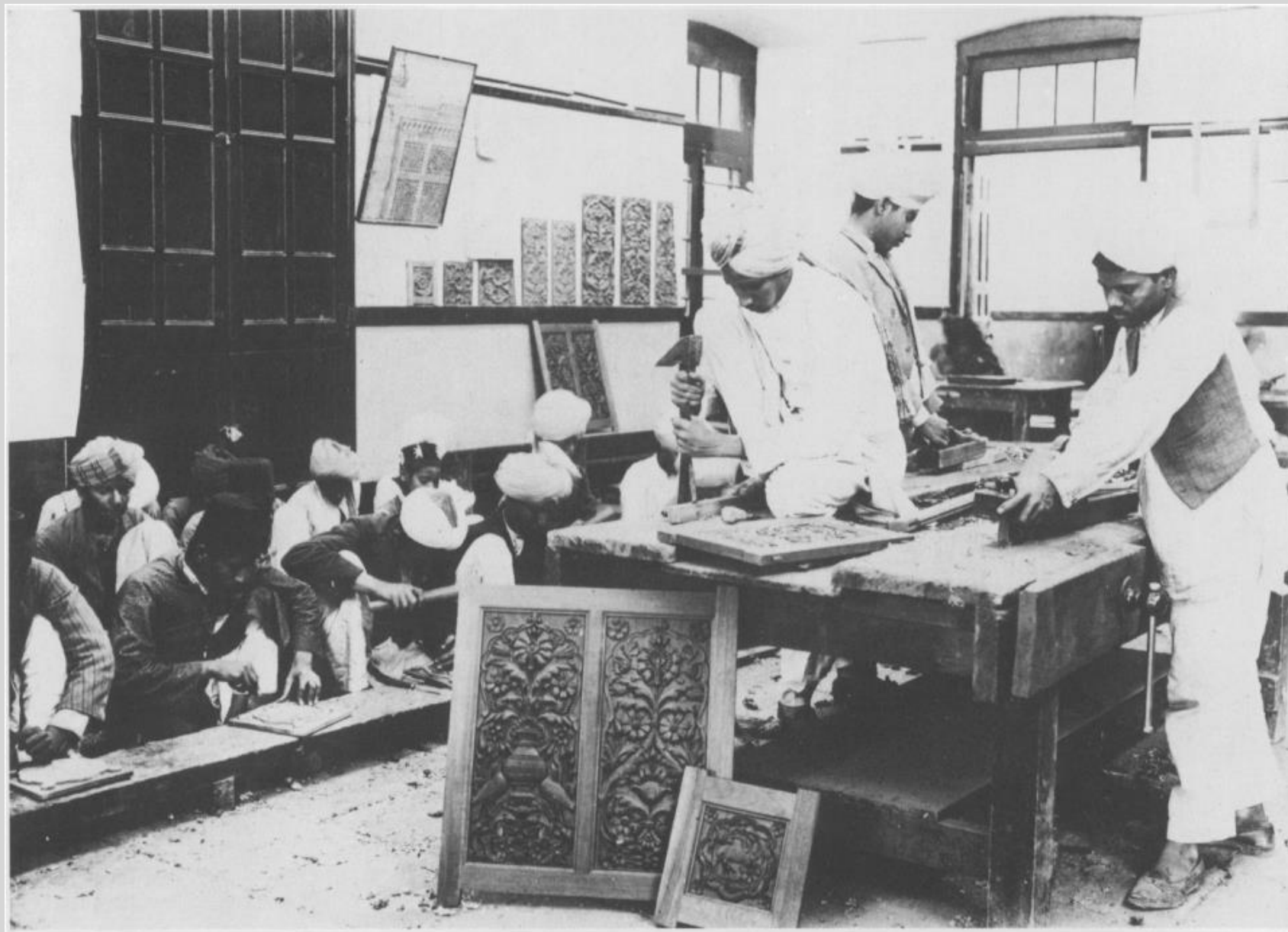




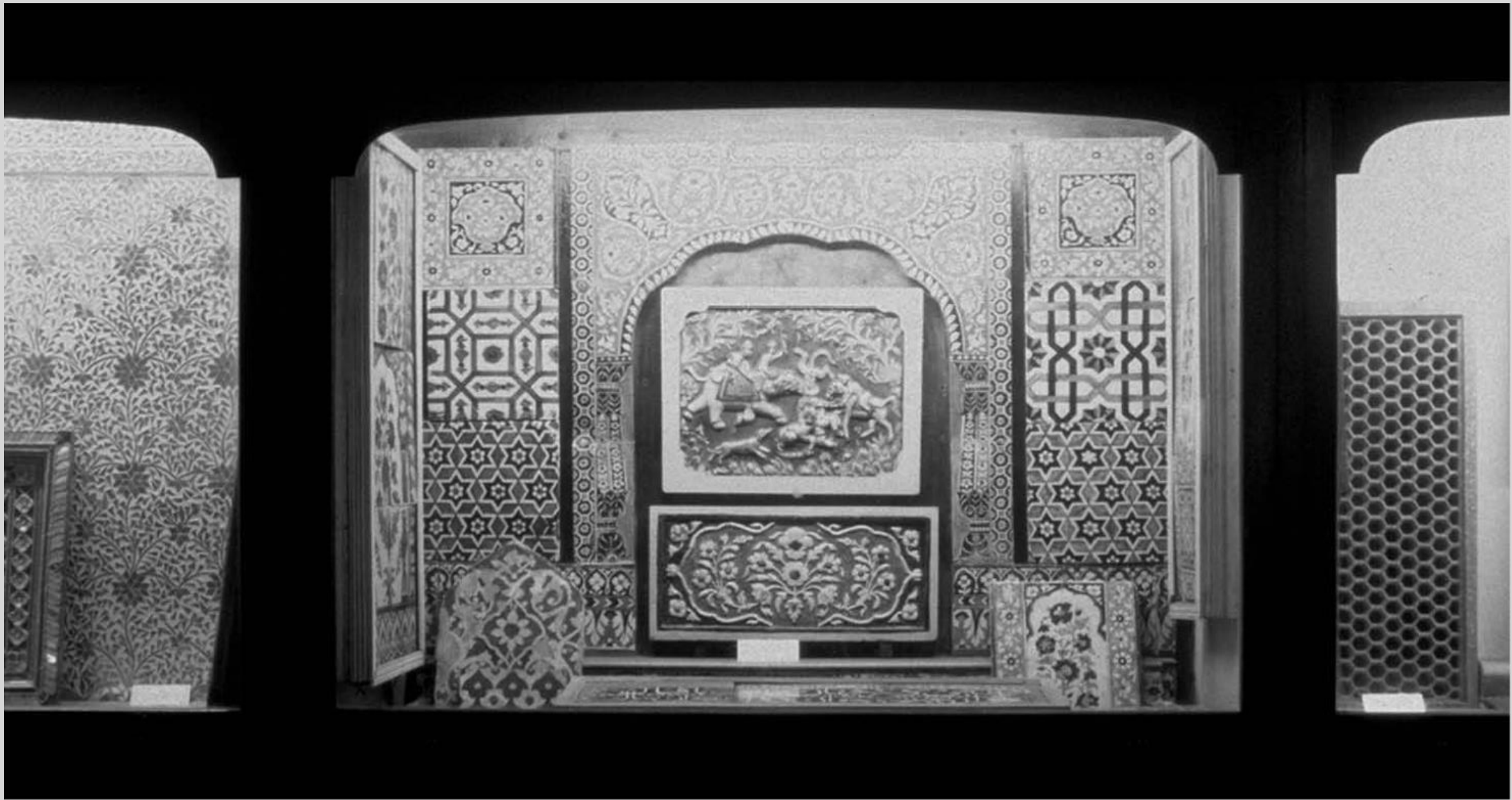
Elementary Drawing; the blackboard on walls were specially prepared for drawing upon.



Metal Work Department in the Mayo School of Industrial Art at Lahore.



Woodcarving Workshop at the Mayo School, ca. 1907.



South Kensington-style display cases of ceramic tiles, Lahore Museum.



Studies of architectural  
ornamentation  
by students of the  
Mayo School of Art  
under the tutelage of  
John Lockwood Kipling.

