

Commissioned by Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India for a monumental canvas mural series on Indo-Bhutan friendship, Gupta created a suite of up-to twenty-ft high canvases depicting four different planes of engagement and association and bonding between the two countries – the historical, cultural spiritual, environmental.

The King of Bhutan was very moved by the works and invited the artist and his wife to his Palace – for tea. What was to be a short meeting where the King conveyed his admiration for the works to the artist, turned out to be an enchanting afternoon of engagement and sharing of ideas and stories. His Majesty very graciously gave some rare glimpses of his journey with the Queen, and their upcoming marriage, including priceless moments that included the crown that the King was making for the Queen.

This painting, a portrait of the queen by the artist, created specially to mark the auspicious occasion of the marriage of the Royal Couple, depicts punctuations and stories from that afternoon that the artist etched on the canvas to weave an aide memoire for the Royal couple, around the portrait, that the King presented to the Queen.

Seen here in the photograph, at a private gathering, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Her Majesty Jetsun Pema, and artist Manav Gupta.