

# **Manav Gupta**

*by Shri Arun Goel*

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(Excerpt from Speech, Dialogues at the Waterfront, arth - art for earth by Manav Gupta, 2018)

I am really delighted to see the creation by Mr. Manav Gupta today. They are unique not only in the presentation but in terms of the material used. I have felt that in our society the contemporary art is getting away from the masses in the sense that art always belonged to the masses but was and had to be patronised universally by the kings or the people who had the resources at the time but in a democratic society like ours the market forces play direct or indirect role in the patronage. But when the masses are detached, and art becomes elitist then it does not depict the society in the true form.

So from that angle I compliment Mr. Manav Gupta as he has used the material which is core to the people. Earth is your concept but the material is also earth; core to the grassroot, the masses of India and we need to have more of such concepts publicised across the country so that the artist in say rural areas in tribal areas , they do not get cut off from the contemporary art. Once again, my compliments to Mr. Manav Gupta who has done a great job here and has done wonderful works in the past, both in India and outside. My best wishes to him for greater success.