
THE STATESMAN

May 21, 1999

Versatility his forte — 'Gupta is gifted with a knack for seeing the unseen'

By Soumik Mukhopadhyaya

MANAV GUPTA, a self-taught artist, is poised to hold his first solo show in the Capital. An artist in Calcutta, Manav spent his childhood in the lap of nature which has always had a great influence on him.

Manav is many men in one. He is a watercolourist, an expert in oil colour, a sculptor and a poet. Paritosh Sen, an eminent artist from Bengal, while commenting on Manav once wrote: 'There are many people in this world who take jobs in different fields as means of their livelihood, but otherwise feel a deep need for some kind of a creative expression. Manav Gupta is one of them. He has chosen painting and drawing as it best suits his talent.'

Nature in all its mysteries and manifestation seems to have gripped his mind as reflected in most of his watercolours. His recent works reveal a cult out of whom art is born. The titles of his works too are in the form of a poem written in Haiku style — the Japanese style of writing poetry in which few words are used to suit the mood of the artist. His paintings not only explain his penned down thoughts but interestingly they are titled after the poems.

For instance: 'Awaiting, expectant, aqua's dreams', or 'At home, fluorescent lights / Bathes walls and us, after supper / Each to his own thoughts / Together family ties'.

Manav is also gifted with an unusual knack for seeing the unseen. He creates compositions that have a stunning presence. His sculptures, in particular, are single edition items that are well-nigh impossible to duplicate or reproduce. They add a distinct aura to any setting or location by the sheer lyricism of their concept.

The exhibition, organized by Scapes and Isms, a private firm, will be held from 27 to 30 May at Taj Palace hotel in Dhauila Kuan. It would be an exhibition of paintings, poems, images and functional sculptures, punctuating walls and spaces. The connoisseurs of art and the discerning lovers of literature have a feast for themselves

on the anvil. It promises to espouse finer moments, statements of life in a rendezvous that makes its mark amongst the class of people who matter.