

## OSFA to host works of leading Indian Artist

*By Staff Reporter*

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MUSCAT — Oman Society for Fine Arts (OSFA) is hosting an exhibition by the internationally acclaimed Indian artist Manav Gupta from August 12 to 22 at the Society's Gallery at Al Sarooj.

Darwish Ismail al Balushi, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance, will preside at the opening of the display on August 12 at 7.30 pm. Manav is hailed as one of the few leading young painters today whose dexterity in exploring light and colour brilliantly with the most sensitive and delicate stroke play has fetched him rare critical acclaim from luminaries, critics and the media alike. He has been awarded the 'Sanatan Puraskar for Fine Arts 2006' on the occasion of which he did a jugalbandi (confluence) on stage live with the noted violinist Dr L Subramaniam.

Manav is also a noted poet. He has also recently completed his latest project of short films commissioned by the Government of India as a Public Service Message on the environment to be telecast on primetime television. Using his poetry and paintings Manav has woven a subtle yet powerful experience that conveys the need for consciousness on global warming and other environment issues.

Premiered recently by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Government of India), at a special function, the one-minute films have been rated to draw an unprecedented response from all quarters.

The artist was commissioned by former Indian President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam to complete an exclusive series of paintings interpreting the latter's poems now available as a book *The Life Tree*. His works have been showcased by the Ministry of Culture for one year, as well as by former US Ambassador to India Richard Celeste and Jacqueline Lundquist at the Roosevelt House, US Embassy.

Other venues to host his works were the Leela Palace (Bangalore), HSBC (Delhi) and recently at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, besides major cities abroad including New York, Melbourne and London. Manav's works are in the permanent collection of the Parliament, Rashtrapati Bhawan (President of India's office), the Birla Academy of Fine Arts, The Chitra Kala Parishad Bangalore, and the Victoria Jones Gallery London, besides several private and public collections.

*"My art is what I am... what I perceive, and what I look forward to," says the artist. "My art is my heartbeat. All that I do comes from deep within."*