

## **His Art is his Heartbeat**

*By Palazhi Ashok Kumar, Associate Editor*

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He is a philosopher-painter and an artist-poet. His art is his heartbeat. His work exemplifies that art is the triumph over chaos. His art cleanses the soul from the dust of everyday life. He gives life to poems and music. His imaginations lead to new creations — from one form of art to another form of art. His paintings are poems without words. He is as close to nature as possible. There's nothing cosmetic about what he feels or what he does. He is none other than Manav Gupta, one of the 10 leading young artists of India whose works would fetch you good returns.

Realistic and fantastic. Lively and reflective! Manav's paintings will not only touch your hearts but also stimulate your feelings. His paintings make us feel that life without paintings is a poor affair. His creations reveal that he is an individual upholding the principle of clarity, courage and intelligence. Manav has actual knowledge and receptivity to knowledge.

*"I love nature, and she is my mother. The nature makes me think high, and I often speak to her. I love to capture the movements of nature. I can talk about my paintings for hours. Right interpretations give me more satisfaction, as my creations come from my heart, from my moods," Manav told Times Leisure.*

*"I can feel my heart beat whole day when I'm involved in art," he said.*

His creations 'As Dawn Descends', 'Moonlight Sonata', 'Poetry of Terrain', 'Pristine Light', 'Solitary Reaper', 'Symphony of Stones and Land', 'Life Tree' will make art-lovers feel that Manav speaks to nature.

What Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, then President of India said: 'Some time back I composed a poem in my mother tongue and translated it into English, titled Life Tree along with some other poems. While composing I never thought that a poem could be given life, beauty and creativity as I visualized. That is the time Manav came and stayed with me in Rashtrapati Bhavan to picturize the natural beauty of Rashtrapati Bhavan and the Mughal Gardens. He stayed with his family for a week and created beautiful canvases full of life. I can see in them the beauty of flowers, smell the fragrance and taste the honey in the flowers. It is as if they are speaking to me with poems. When Manav came across my poem Life Tree he took seven days in the beautiful environs of the Mughal Gardens to transform Life Tree into a speaking tree. What a beautiful creation! First time I realized painting and poem intertwined with the imagination of a painter, leads to the birth of a new creation. That new creation touches your heart, smoothens feelings, and transmits beauty and peace of the combined art into every artistic person, and showers happiness in his or her mind and soul.'

*"My art is what I am, and it comes out spontaneously. What I sense. And what I look forward to. My art is my heartbeat. All that I do comes from deep within." — Manav Gupta*

Manav believes in soothing and vibrant colours. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of India's Planning Commission once said: 'I was struck by the beauty and the philosophical relevance of his

paintings.' According to international media, Manav Gupta is an artist with a difference. His paintings are often visually striking. Sounds, moods and rhythms have deeply affected the artist to give a brilliant sensitivity to his works.

Manav studied painting under Vasant Pandit, an unsung master, besides the Academy of Fine Arts when Ranu Mukherjee and Rathin Mitra personally addressed every student. Today, Manav has grown manifold. His art has taken him to the zenith. He's a name the world recognizes.

As Dr L. M. Sanghvi, former Indian Ambassador to UK said: 'Manav Gupta has finesse of forms and colour which flows through his exquisite painting, each one of which is a poem with a painting as its habitat. His colours have a tranquil philosophical quality: his paintings spontaneously engage their viewers in an intimate conversation.'