

Bank Muscat presents: The Premiere of an exhibition of paintings by Manav Gupta

The Omani Society for Fine Art will host a 12-day exhibition of paintings by world-renowned artist-poet Manav Gupta. Darwish bin Ismail Al Balushi, secretary-general, Ministry of Finance, will open the exhibition today.

The exhibition is being organized by Oman's leading event manager Light And Shadow Enterprises LLC. The event manager has teamed up with banking major Bank Muscat to present this unique exhibition.

On Bank Muscat's decision to present Manav Gupta's painting exhibition, K. Gopakumar, General Manager for Wholesale Banking, Bank Muscat said: "Today art is increasingly gaining importance the world over, as an invaluable asset class. As the leader in private banking services in Oman, we believe it is only right for us to be associated with something that appeals both to one's sound aesthetic senses and sophisticated investment needs. We hope this exhibition will help us share the strengths and opportunities of this emerging investment avenue with many of our clients nationwide. We have been a pioneer in bringing in new investment products and asset classes to Oman, and we believe this exhibition would help our clients to explore the asset class. The exhibition is a rare expression of marrying the beauty of nature to the inner brilliance of human soul."

"We are excited to join hands with Manav Gupta as Muscateers will experience a double whammy of his most sought after paintings. He is one of the few leading young painters today with dexterity in exploring light and colour brilliantly with the most sensitive and delicate stroke play has fetched him rare critical acclaim from luminaries and critics and the media alike." — Rajeev Choudhary, managing director of Light & Shadow

Rated by recent surveys as one of the 10 leading young artists of India, Manav has patented his very unique offering as an artist as an answer to western spatial and performance art. He paints in a very possessed unique style that only he can create on stage in the presence of live music, engaging in a jugalbandi with leading musicians and performers.

Veteran artist Paritosh Sen recommends strongly: 'An excellent watercolourist who paints landscapes of great lyrical quality and beauty.' Hailed by Financial Times as one of India's 10 leading young artists whose works would fetch you good returns, Manav's works have been successfully auctioned by Christie's, Bonham's and other auction houses.

Manav has been commissioned to create his signature works that were presented as business leadership awards to industrialists Kumarmangalam Birla and Kamath of the Birla Group and ICICI respectively. Youngest member nominated by Defence Ministry on the Expert Committee for the Republic Day celebrations of India, his works have been exhibited across the globe in Europe, US and Australia, especially regularly in New York, Melbourne and London.

Through the centuries, the ultra-rich have chosen to invest a good part of their wealth in art and other collectibles. Although putting money into art may not be as straightforward as investing in bonds or equities, the world art market, which topped \$22 billion in sales last year, is attracting increasing interest.

Presenter: Bank Muscat. Open from 9.30am to 1.30pm — 5.30pm to 8.30pm. Venue: Omani Society for Fine Arts. Date: August 12–23.