

In The Lap of Nature

By N. Anuranjani

The climate change summit at Copenhagen might have ended but the issue continues to exist in the works of artist Manav Gupta whose paintings displayed at an exhibition talk about climate change at large, our association with our roots and also with Mother Nature and the earth.

"The whole idea is to depict climate change that goes much beyond the political affairs, nationalities and other issues. It concerns the whole humanity," said Gupta.

An artwork in black and white titled Regeneration exudes a rich appeal.

"The lady in the painting depicts a goddess who has become one with the ecosystem," said Gupta. The eyes of the lady seem to pierce into the viewer's eye quite inquisitively.

The exhibition — Climate Change Beyond Boundaries beyond Copenhagen; Umbilical Chords of The Earth and Rainforests — has been put up by Gupta in association with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) at Azad Bhavan Auditorium.

"The whole idea is to weave all art forms together as art cannot be restricted to a particular format and the entire thought is what encompasses all the forms of art," said he.

A painting that attracts attention has a green backdrop but the people in it are illustrated in black.

'This one is my favourite. It goes on different levels and is about large cosmic designs,' says Gupta.

Another painting titled 'Rain' has the raindrops done in green as would be viewed from behind a glass pane. It is a magnificent piece by the artist.

Gupta, who not only is a painter but a poet, a sculptor, an environmental film-maker, has put together 29 paintings in the exhibition. He has also interwoven his ideas into a poem so that it appears as a complete story. Gupta plays with colours to build a texture and creates a well-composed imagery. The visual appeal is heightened by the subtle light which emanates from the paintings.

The perils of disturbing the harmony between the natural environment and human society have also been clearly depicted in his paintings. He is an artist who looks beyond himself and his sensitivity to the needs of human beings is clearly depicted through his works. He is at home with different media. The paintings are done in watercolour, oil and acrylic on canvas and have one thing in common — they glow with the artist's fervour and energy. His sensitive exploration of the earth's different hues are very exhilarating to look at.

Former President APJ Abdul Kalam once praising his works had remarked: "I can see in them the beauty of the flowers, smell the fragrance and taste the honey in the flowers. It is as if they are speaking to me." The statement says loads about the painter and artist — that his art is not only exquisite but has a message which touches hearts, smoothens feelings and transmits beauty and peace of combined arts into

every artistic person and showers happiness.

Bibliography — manavgupta.in