

# Art Attack

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What time would be better than a Sunday morning to catch up with fresh art? It was not known if it was the summer effect or the effect of Paintings of Kuldeep kumar that were exhibited at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. It being his debut Solo show, it was justified that he was too busy with his clients thronging into Foyer Gallery, IHC to admire and encourage Kuldeep's paintings at the elite club. The whoz-who of the art connoisseur club were there to see his work.

With the 3 day exhibition keeping the artist on his toes, we managed a chat with him over a cup of coffee. Kuldeep kumar did his Graduation and B.F.A from Delhi University and also had done a 3 year diploma in arts. His group shows were highly acclaimed and he was awarded in the 11<sup>th</sup> YuvaMahotsav held by Sahitya Kala Parishad. All the paintings on display at this exhibition were based on the "Origin of Life" concept. He used his brush to depict the different perceptions of origin of life. Few of those paintings attributed the origin to Women. There was a painting which detailed the theme using a woman and a flower.

He skillfully depicted the theme in a wide variety of colours and canvases. He tells us that he uses Acrylic and Oil paintings on his canvas. When asked about the effort he has put into painting each of them, he modestly says "It is very important for an artist to get the idea right before starting a work. So it sometimes takes as less than 5 days to around a month; depending on the condition of mind. There are paintings which took even 45 days to attain perfect shape." About the response of this exhibition, he says "I am excited looking at the appreciation I am receiving from diverse audience. It is interesting and also a bit relieving to know more people are appreciating art these days."

When questioned about the commercial aspect of art, he says "It doesn't feel good to see that a few artists are trying to exploit art connoisseurs with their work. It is a common perception that most of the art is overpriced. Yes in a few cases, but not all. One has to understand that the colours used on canvas itself are very expensive, and an artist has to at least earn that back. Moreover, for artists, their art is a source of livelihood. So it de-motivates an artist when someone comments saying they are too commercial."

But everyone who has seen his work were surprised looking at the price tags, which were comparatively economical than a lot of artists. It translated into a lot of people buying his art at the exhibition and truly appreciating his efforts. One can understand the kind of clientele he has when we see the Mayor of Delhi especially visiting his exhibition to appreciate his work. Ode is also one of his audiences who truly appreciated his art and found it worth the attention of our readership.