



A TIMES GROUP PRESENTATION

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## Everybody is an artist

Artist Devendra Kumar Shukla talks to PRATIBA RAMAN about the passion that he and his Korean wife Mun share for painting...



**When and how did your passion for art begin?**

I started painting at the age of two. My father, being an artist himself, was against my taking up art and would hide all the paints and brushes. But I somehow lost interest in studies soon after my tenth class and began concentrating on painting much against my father's wishes.

**What describes your style of painting and how does it differ from your wife's painting?**

Our sources of inspiration are imagination, observation and experience. My observational skills are better than Mun's. Though the amount of patience my wife has is a shade higher than mine, both our paintings are very spontaneous. It's an outburst of energy within. We don't plan it. Mun's patience is reflected in the fact that she specialised in Lacquer painting, which requires a lot of concentration and effort.

**Having travelled, learnt and imbibed various styles in a number of places, what is your take on 'modern' art?**

Everything today is modern. There are a number of societies willing to support art today. Everybody is an artist. Give them a canvas and colours and it becomes an expression. There's no criteria in art that decides what is 'good' and what is 'bad'. That is modern art to me.

**How does a contemporary artist like you relate with a layman through your painting?**

It's a feeling, not a formula. We artists cannot help it if the layman cannot relate to it. One needs to get into the 'art business' by observing more and visiting several exhibitions. It's a passion one needs to get involved in.

*InKo Centre, in association with The Forum Art Gallery, The Park, Chennai, and Kingfisher Airlines, presents Confluence: an exhibition of paintings by Mun and Devendra Shukla. The exhibition is on until July 31 from 10.30am to 6.30pm at the Forum Art Gallery, #57, 5th Street, Padmanabha Nagar, Adyar; ph: 42115596.*