

Artistic hands paint 40 thoughts

Akshatha M, Moodbidri, Jan 8, DHNS:

Veteran artist Sathyapal from Kerala conferred 'Varna Virasat' award



The unique blend of traditional art forms and contemporary art works by some of the renowned artists of our nation was the main attraction of the national-level art camp - Alva's Varna Virasat-2012 at Shobhavana in Mijar, Moodbidri.

The four-day long annual camp

concluded on Sunday on literally a colourful note with as many as 40 paintings that have taken shape in the skilled hands of 20 artists from various parts of the country, displayed artistically drawing a large number of art lovers to the venue.

The 20 artists who took part in the camp consisted of seven artists whose paintings are based on the traditional art form like Kalamkari and Madhubani style.

Speaking to Deccan Herald, renowned artist of the region and the Head of the Department of Bachelor of Visual Art at Alva's College (Moodbidri) Ramadas Adyanathaya said that one of the speciality of this year's Varna Virasat is the man who has been awarded with Varna Virasat- 2012, veteran artist Sathyapal from Kerala himself has participated in the four-day camp and created exceptional paintings.

"It was an honour to have Sathyapal with us who mingled with all the artists and received the award on Sunday," he said.

The exceptional artist from Kerala, Sathyapal who has made extensive study of tribal communities and has been painting series of paintings on the life and culture of tribals since 2002, said to Deccan Herald that he owes a lot to the tribals, for its them who inspired him to paint brilliantly on the canvas.

"I was like any other artist till the year 2000. The day I began to study the life of tribals, I turned bear. I realised that we town dwellers who call ourselves as 'civilised' stand nowhere against the real 'civilisation' inherited by tribal people. Living a life with tribals from Bastar, Ektal, Anjar, Narayanpur, Sarguja and several other settlements was all together a different experience which gave a new dimension to my art form," he says.

However, in Varna Virasat, Sathyapal has designed two paintings which are the continuation of 'My toys' series of paintings which has been his passion. In the new series of paintings, he attaches wheels to all the toys depicting the fast paced life imposed on every individual.

Kalamkari arts

Kalamkari arts by Rita Jagadish Chitara and Jagadish Chitara couple from Ahmedabad was the special attraction of Varna Virasat. Kalamkari art on cloth material which is made by using a layer of cow dung which is later painted with natural and vegetable colours, beautifully depicted various forms of Goddess Durga. Rita Jagadish said that though the art is complicated, she learnt it from her husband after the marriage and now she is an expert in doing it.

"There is a lot of demand for Kalamkari art back at home during Shivrathri and Navrathri," she said. The Kalamkari art has indeed got a new lease of life in the hands of Chitara couple.

Querozito D'Souza from Goa who has exhibited his paintings in India and abroad too was at the camp. His eye catching two paintings on the theme 'Devouring Passion' mostly express the human emotions and nature. As D'Souza puts it, most of his paintings are inspired by the theories of great Psychologists Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung.

The other paintings include Madhubani paintings by Sharavan Paswan couple from Bihar, paintings on idols by Sindhu D from Kerala etc.