

The Sun series by Udayraj A. Gadnis

“Colour is power which directly influences the soul” - Wassily Kandinsky



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The Sun has, since the beginning of humankind, always been a focal point of life and the source of inspiration for many artists. UdayrajGadnis, great thinker, spiritual leader and artist, is following this creative path by presenting his ‘Sun Series’.

The Sun Series is a series of oil paintings on canvas, each one embodying an ancient mythical culture of this world. The series is rooted in tradition, but also works as an eye-opener to contemporary life. The paintings rise in front of us like a solid, invincible and immortal piece with a real presence.

Udayraj has executed each work

with a formidable and painstaking precision, just by using paint and brush on canvasses. The result is pure energy, pulsating and alive, that has the power to mesmerise the onlooker, seduced by this vast artistic vision. His style cannot be cornered in one contemporary artistic current. Speaking of ‘a faithful and profound vision of life’ could summarise his deeply enlightened and transcendental approach. As a spiritual theorist and leader, there is of course an important correlation between his ideas and his artistic views. His paintings all have the goal to convey a deep message.

The central iconography in the Sun series is of course the Sun, but with a multi-layered meaning. You could see the Sun as a mere celestial body, or, perhaps, as the origin of all life, the central symbol of many ancient civilisations, the focal point

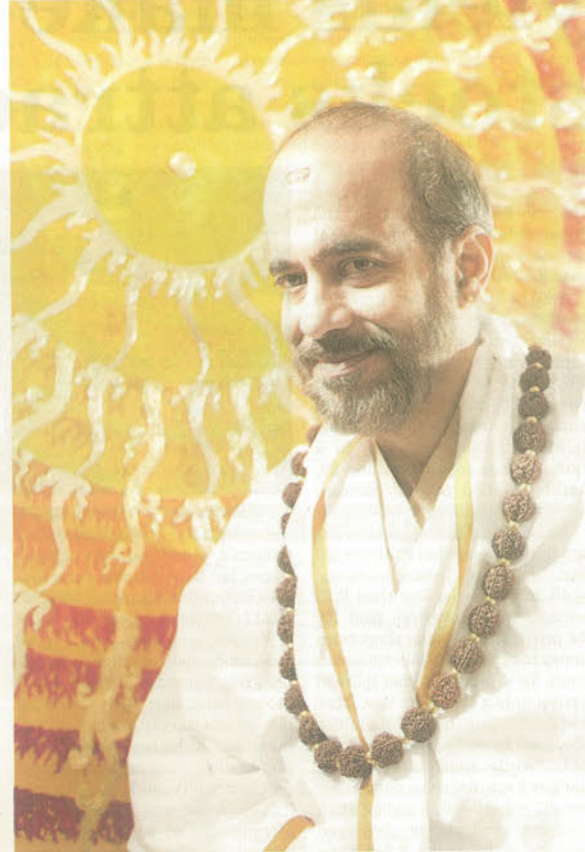
of our existence. Despite the use of simple geometrical shapes to depict the Sun, these paintings are very complex and their multi-layered symbolism cannot be grasped in one view. After some time, you become aware of the pulsating presence and importance of the Sun. It is the beating heart of each painting, and the beating heart of our own presence in this world. A meditative gaze can take you to another level – conferring you a consciousness of the cosmic forces around. This profound communion or unity between the viewer and the painting, but also between the viewer and the artist, cannot be described with mere words or images. The purity of the Sun series reflects Udayraj’s limitless capacity to think universally as an artist and philosopher, true to his Indian roots.

UdayrajGadnis is a very enticing and enigmatic mystic – he paints like a sculptor, he feels like a philosopher, he thinks like a scientist, he sounds like a poet and he is dressed like a traditionalist! A highly interesting multi-faceted artist creating deep multi-layered paintings.

The technique used in the Sun series reflects many different elements: by using bright and bold colors of a wide chromatic range,



Udayraj transforms the colors into a vocabulary that guides the viewer through each canvas. As a fact, the colors stop playing the role of mere colors, but function as a lead for the spectator. Gold is also omnipresent in the Sun series, conferring an almost sacred character to the work. The way he applies his paint is yet another important element in his work. Thin layers of paint are combined with thick impastos giving texture to the canvas and thus creating vibrations and movement. Also, some of the canvasses are unframed, so they can spread their energy freely! This group of works could be categorized as ‘monumental’, as his paintings have a real presence, combining powerful traditional iconography with vibrant colors and painterly techniques. The viewer has the chance to experience the grandeur of ancient



and contemporary civilisations, but Udayraj never imposes any ideology, reflecting his true nature - that of a mystic who paints!

UdayrajGadnis is a superb chronicler of our time and age, and he understands that imagination is a central element in our existence. The Sun series is a mirror of life in all its complexity and intensity. On the occasion of his 50th birthday and to celebrate his Silver Jubilee

(25 years of painting), this group of works form a pivotal moment in Udayraj’s artistic career. These paintings express spirituality, drama, philosophy, poetry through a complex yet exquisite orchestration of colors, shapes and textures. These canvasses could well form a new alphabet, the ‘alphabet of life’. The Sun as the only witness of time, giving us a glimpse of our immortality.



Udayraj with Sophie Hong Clauwaert, Art Historian, Sothebys Institute of Art

A Mystic in the world of Art and Wealth: Masterpiece 2016, London



Udayraj A. Gadnis with his dedicated friend and curator Mr. Miguel Angel Collazo Araujo

Masterpiece London celebrates its 7th year of great art and it’s now firmly established as the most important and significant event in the world of art, antiques and design. It showcases timeless art with tremendous beauty and grace. It is a great place to share wisdom and expertise. Every summer international collectors and representatives of the museums flock to the vast grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea in excited anticipation of the outstanding art works that will be offered at the fair. A world class forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience. It’s neither an event nor a fair, it’s an experience!

Visitors are treated to an extraordinary collection of the finest in the visual arts, design and antiques created by world brilliant creative minds across time. All under a massive designer tent roof, not many places can create such a wonderful magic.

One can definitely not see nor grasp everything in one single visit, every revisit is an eye opener to a different appreciation of art. The seriousness and integrity of this mega art experience is unparalleled in the contemporary art world.

The most fascinating aspect of seeing this year’s masterpiece show unfold on the 29th night (a preview and patron’s night) was a rare gem of an artist from India – Shri Udayraj A. Gadnis. Hailed as a renowned mystic artist, founder of the spiritual art moment, Udayraj is the 1st living artist at the age of just 50, to have had the honour of exhibiting his paintings at the Masterpiece. His two very expensive paintings titled the SUN (Medieval and Renaissance) done on a 24k pure gold block 12”x12” with crushed ruby paste have had many keen visitors waiting patiently to catch a glimpse of the SUN!

Some of the leading London art galleries, which are also exhibiting at the masterpiece, speak highly about Udayraj and his talent.

Mr. Sam Fogg, the founder of the gallery and a specialist in medieval art and manuscripts with sharp focus on Indian and Islamic art, said, “Udayraj is a rare gem in the Indian contemporary art world, he has deep roots in Indian culture and yet is very much in tune with international art world, the fact that he is exhibiting here at the Masterpiece London, speaks volumes of his achievements, he is sharp and brilliant”

Shapero Rare Books Director and CEO, Mr. Bernard Shapero says about Udayraj with a sense of pride, as they do deal extensively with rare Indian antiquarian art and books, “It’s a joy to see Udayraj paintings displayed here at Masterpiece London amongst the great masters.

“He truly has arrived on the international art scene with a Big Bang, he is unique in this art and his personality,” says Mr. Amir Mohtasemi, the owner of his gallery based on high street Kensington for over 25yrs.

As Udayraj A. Gadnis is being rushed between interviews and photo shoots, we manage to catch him for a quick Q&A session.



Mr. Sam Fogg

Q: You have had a remarkable opportunity to show your paintings “masterpieces” at this amazing art event in London, how does it feel?

A: It’s an incredible feeling, absolutely fantastic. To see your work amongst the greatest pieces of art, to stand tall in the world of international art on his own terms! It’s a blessing from the God. When art historians, academicians, connoisseurs engage in a profound conversation with you regarding your research and creative process, you feel your journey as an artist was worth all the agony and ecstasy!

I have always painted for the Gods, and I’m blessed to have divine souls witnessed it.

Q: You are more of a mystic, who paints, than just a painter, can you share with us your views about paintings displayed at the Masterpiece?

A: Yes my paintings are a reflection of my meditative soul. The SUN has been my focal point and it’s been a three year journey of deep reading, intense research and profound understanding as to why in the past 5000 years of painting there are no solo SUN paintings on record. Yes, a small SUN in the background, yes, lots of “light”, but no SUN! Why?

So what you see exhibited here at Masterpiece is a small representation of my mega ambitious painting project on THE SUN. Where I have created massive paintings 6x6 ft on SUN in different civilisations, the iconography of just SUN and the power it had on that civilisation which will be at raving show all over the world this year. The Indus, Greek, Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Roman, Chinese civilisation - just to name a few - all worshipped the SUN. I have done my best to capture the very essence of civilisations. The SUNs displayed here are the scaled down versions of the medieval and renaissance period. It’s my way of paying a tribute to the



Mr. Bernard Shapero

artists of that periods.

Q: Considering that you were born and raised in a traditional Hindu Brahmin Indian family, you still have a very international approach to your art and life...

A: As a mystic I don’t belong to any “one”. As a spiritual artist, yes, I do have deep Indian roots, but the fruits are here for everyone to enjoy, that’s the beauty of a fulfilled life. Artists are timeless and Mystics are beyond time itself. Now where can you fit me?

Q: You started painting late in life at age of 25 after your 1st Masters in psychology, without any formal training in painting or art. You have had 50 solo shows and over 2,000 painting and now at the age of 50 you have established yourself as an international artist. Where this fire of creativity is coming from?



A: The core essence of my life is Lord Shiva. I am inspired and blessed by my mother, maaGeetanjali (her 24/7 prayers are heard by the Gods) I also have my father’s Shree AnantGadnis support, my Guru’s faith and protection, the deep dedication of my friend and art curator Mr. Miguel Collazo Araujo and all those who believe in me and my vision, like Mentor Cap Chairman and Visionary Shree



Mr. Amir Mohtasemi

ShaileshHaribhakti and the brilliant MD Mr.Rahul Mehta. Mentor Cap supported this SUN project unconditionally! The art academician Sophie Clauwaert spent hours understanding my work and wrote passionately about it. India’s famous fashion designer Krishna Mehta created clothes specially for this event. So you see many beloved family members and friends add to the fire!

Q: Many in the Indian artists’ world may dislike you, but you are loved and respected here in the western art world...

A: Well, who can understand a Mystic?! You can only love a mystic. To “understand” is to use the mind, you need to love and feel by heart, like you feel a beautiful painting, you will waste time understanding it. The Indian art world today is in state of divine confusion (Laughs). It is better to leave them alone to soul search.

I am indebted to a scholar like Mr. Sam Fogg, his vast knowledge about medieval and renaissance art is amazing! He has so beautifully exhibited my paintings amongst the 500 year old medieval art in his gallery SAM FOGG here at the Masterpiece. He actually felt and experienced the beauty of my work. It was magical! His “human aspect” is a heart-warming.

Q: Your image looks mystical, not much is known about you...

A: (He beams that sunlight smile, gracefully lifts his 9 yard Hindu traditional silk garb, steps out of the Q&A cubical and says gracefully) I am here to fulfil my unfulfilled Karma’s, rest is an illusion.

As I step out of the massive Masterpiece tent to find the missing British summer, I think of the wealth and wisdom of the art world, with a lingering fragrance of an Indian Mysticism!