

Motswana to exhibit in New York

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Pramod Kumar is a happy man after his artworks got the nod to be exhibited at a New York art exhibition in July. Indian-born Kumar's abstract art pieces have made a big impression globally, even though locally he still remains a relative unknown.

"I am happy to get this invitation because this is a big opportunity for me to learn more

about the trade. It also offers me that rare chance to mingle with the world's best artists, share ideas and network," he said.

A member of the Thapong Visual Arts Centre, Kumar says since he started painting as a youngster, he has always hoped to influence people positively with his work.

Born in a small village in India, Pramod Kumar earned a degree in Applied Art from Patna College of Art and his MFA from Banaras Hindu University. He has since built a

distinguished career as an artist and receiving worldwide recognition for his works.

"I would be lying if I said I have been aiming for this exhibition. I am happy that it has happened though. People who have come across my work have given me positive feedback and that alone has been fulfilling," he said.

Kumar further said: "Definitely, I hope to achieve peace, brotherhood and love for everybody with my art."



लाजवाब आर्ट

आईसीएआर में लगे आर्ट एग्जीबिशन को देखने के लिए सोमवार को कलाप्रेमियों की भीड़ उमड़ी। कैनवास पर रंग और कला की बारीकियां देख उन्होंने कलाकार की सराहना भी की।

Shun violence. Let peace prevail!

A passout from College of Arts and Crafts in Patna, artist Pramod Kumar proceeded to South Africa in 2004 and has been there ever since. He has to his credit many international exhibitions but opted to launch his art exhibition 'Peace - Put All The Guns Down' from his roots. Ruchir Kumar describes his artwork

In the modern day era, where people believe in 'might is right' principle, Pramod Kumar, a local artist settled in Botswana (southern Africa), is using his paintbrush to spread the message of peace.

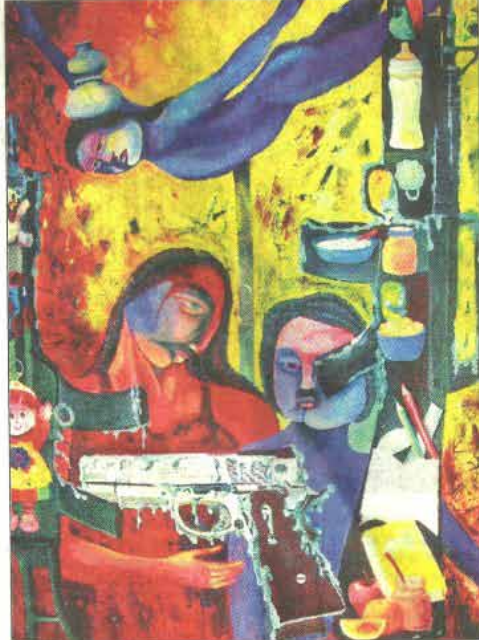
Using acrylic on canvas, sometimes adding oil paints and mixed media, he has developed his paintings in bold, broad strokes to convey the message - 'Put All The Guns Down' - as the three-day art exhibition opened at

the Indian Council for Cultural Relation, 67-68/40 officers flat, Bailey Road here on Monday.

Kumar has put up eight paintings of rich hues to highlight the paradox of using war to achieve peace. 'The Peace Beggar' depicts Buddha as a mendicant, taking guns as alms and holding a white flower, typifying the apostle of peace. The theme of the artwork is peace and it powerfully conveys the message to shun violence.



Artist Pramod Kumar explains to the audience his artwork, 'The Peace Beggar'.



The artist uses soft toys in his painting 'Million Dollar Guns & Street Performers' to depict how the innocence as a child paves way to streak of violence and destruction as one grows into an adult. The painting also depicts feeding bottle, books, child artiste in a circus and melting firearms to portray the essence that money spent on weapons of mass destruction should be channelised towards education and humanity.

'The Melting Gun' is an element of art, creating textures using solid colours against a blue foundation. In fact, Kumar uses different shades of blue and base of

the same group like mauve, cobalt blue and cerulean blue, besides black and some bright colours like orange and yellow. This, too, has soft toys - to portray the innocence of child - pinned on the canvas.

Some of his artwork like 'Birds in City' is an abstract and surreal world of pure colour and symbolic imagery. Some paintings like 'Baby & Mass Destruction Weapons' are figurative and soothing to the eyes. Amidst the energetic vibrancy, the forms of figures, animals and plants emerge at times, hinting at an inner mythology.

"My intention is to make this world a better place ver-

bally in my therapeutic work and visually through my art making style," says Kumar.

A lecturer in Service College of Education, Botswana, Kumar has to his credit many international exhibitions. Inspired by the colourful folk art of Bihar as expressed in the wall murals of natural pigments, he opted to flag off his exhibition on melting guns from his home soil. From here, he travels to New York, Johannesburg and Botswana, having received invites from many foreign art galleries.

Sure, this College of Arts and Crafts passout is destined to go places!