SUBUL SUNIM, BUDDHIST MONK OF THE JOGYE ORDER, DISCIPLE OF BODHIDHARMA, UNFURLS HIS OBSERVATION AND OPINION ON LIFE EMPOWERMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT

SUBUL SUNIM hadn’t even found Buddhism until he was 21. His family had always followed the Korean religion Chondogyo. It was later that he started exploring this form of Zen Buddhism from the Jogye Order to Calm, Mungolla and Korea.

"It was by chance that I happened to enter a Buddhist temple. It felt as if it was my own home and I was asked if I wanted to shave my head and become a monk. It was my karma," he explains.

I think," says the abbot, "Now I feel I was a monk even in my previous life.

The abbot met Venu Srinivasa, chairman of TVS Motor Company at the Deenam in Russia, Korea, and was in turn invited to inaugurate the Chennai Photo Biennale. "Srinivasa felt that I was his teacher in his previous birth when he entered the temple. From that moment, we have been in touch and enjoy a good relationship," he says.

"He refers to his people as the descendants of Master Bodhidharma, a prince of Kanchipuram and the founder of Zen Buddhism. Bodhidharma moved to China in the sixth century to spread the spiritual teachings of Zen Buddhism, says Sunim. It was his karma."

"There is nothing called religion. It is only a way of life. We had no religion before 5000 years. Everything depends on how we live," says the abbot addressing the diversity of religion in India.

When asked about his teachings on mindfulness and meditation, the monk explains: "I can see myself without using a mirror through meditation. Zen Buddhism is completely different from Buddhism. It teaches your soul instead of your appearance outside.

Zen Buddhism teaches one about the enlightened mind of the Buddha, by making one look inward and see one's true nature. "Zen Buddhism is something beyond religion — it is enlightenment. And enlightenment is not something you can teach people. It's something you expect once directly. Anyone can follow Zen Buddhism," he says signing off."
Vignettes from Seoul

From paint on canvas to ceramic jars and bowls, 140 Korean works of art are on display in the city for a week.

This edition features techniques like frottage, expressionist and abstract traditional paintings. 

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Chennai Biennale gets under way at Lalit Kala Akademi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Chennai Biennale 2019 got underway at the Lalit Kala Akademi on Thursday.

Abbot Subul Sumin, Anguk Zen Center, Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism and co-president, Korea-India Cultural Exchange, who inaugurated the exhibition of paintings by Korean artists, titled 'Beyond the Frame', said there was a deep connection between India and Korea. He said India was the land of Zen Buddhism's founder Bodhi Dharma.

Industrialist and Goodwill Envoy of the Republic of Korea Venu Srinivasan released a special catalogue, which was received by Hyung Tae Kim, Consul General of the Republic of Korea. Heo Sook, chairperson, K-Art International Exchange Association Inc, said so far the works of 900 Korean artists had been featured in the biennales and Hyundai Spectrum exhibitions over the last 12 years in Chennai.

Rathi Jafer, director, InKo Centre, said it was a non-profit society supported mainly by TVS Motor Company and Hyundai Motor India. The exhibition, organised by K-Art and InKo Centre, will be on till October 1.
Beyond the Frame: The Chennai Biennale 2019 is the fourth in a series of bi-annual exhibitions that aims to showcase the range and variety of contemporary paintings from Korea, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, at 6.30pm, on September 19.

Beyond the Frame: The Chennai Biennale 2019 is the fourth in a series of bi-annual exhibitions that showcases the variety of contemporary paintings from Korea, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, from 11am to 7pm, till October 1; The Chennai Biennale 2019 is a bi-annual exhibition that aims to showcase the range and variety of contemporary paintings from Korea.

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Chennai: Close to 120 contemporary artists from Korean Harpengon display their works at the fourth edition of the Chennai Biennale, presented by India Centre Chennai, in collaboration with K-Art International Exchange Association, Korea. Titled “Beyond the Frame,” the biannual show was inaugurated by senior Buddhist monk and in-resident of Korea-India Cultural Exchange Balkh Saheb.

“Koral Sainz is the alabaster of the Jogye Order of Buddhism, which is closely linked to Chennai, going back all the way to Buddhist bunka, who went from this coast to spread Buddhism in China, Mongolia and Korea. He has also been working to encourage young and established artists to have vital links between the two countries,” said Santosh Jafar, director of India Centre.

“More than 300 works and 50 artists have visited Chennai over the last four years through this initiative,” said Jafar.

The show features works by both emerging and established artists and highlights their unique techniques of interpreting the Korean cityscapes, villages, beaches, flora and fauna. It also features the works of materials such as Korean paper and dyed silk, giving a peek into the artistic traditions and techniques of the region.

Eight participating artists were present at the inauguration, guiding visitors through their work and styles. Park-Do Noh, who was mixed martial on canvas, explores her fascination for pet animals by interpreting them as engaging in human-like activities such as going to the library, dancing and celebrating.

“I’ve always wondered how it would be if our pets could do the things we do. For many of us they’re like family so that thought guides most of my work,” she said. Sun, Young Soon, whose painting has been featured at the Biennale, loves showing the beachside and how the shores and those open areas inspire her. She believes such exchanges make Korean and Indian artists come closer and appreciate each other’s culture. We are a long way in history; the city of Ayodhya is also the birthplace of goddess Maang-ak who married a Korean king. It is also the land of Buddhist bunka,” said Koral Sainz.

Virus Bhattacharjee, chairman of TBI Group and Godrej Group, released a catalog of the show.

The exhibition is on till October 1, from 10 AM to 8 PM, at Lalith Kala Akademi, Greaves Road.