

CONTEMPORARY ARTIST DR. SUNIL SAXENA (AN INTRODUCTION)

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ABSTRACT

Dr. Sunil Saxena has made significant contributions in the field of contemporary art. Boldness and new experiments have a special place in his art life. Although the influence of European modern art came late on Indian artists, it gave a new direction to Indian art. Dr. Saxena's art shows his sensitivity, creativity and the deep influence of Indian scriptures. He incorporated elements of Indian culture, epics and Shilpa Shastras in his artworks, which makes his artworks appear more lively and deep. His life and art journey have been inspiring. His interest in art was evident since childhood, and his gurus played an important role in developing his art perspective. His artworks show skilful use of colours and a combination of various emotions, which mesmerizes the audience. Prof. Sunil mastered the theoretical and practical aspects of art and also made significant contributions to art teaching, which inspired young artists. The influence of Indian culture, epic stories and scriptures is clearly visible in his works of art, and he took the Indian aesthetic vision to a new level through art. In different decades of his life, he studied various dimensions of art and brought it to life in his works of art.

Keywords: Contemporary, Modern, Art, Journey, Mesmerize, Elements, Artist.

Introduction

The simple and modest life of Saxena ji is clearly reflected in his personality and work. His simplicity and straightforwardness are evident from the first sight of him, which is an important part of his lifestyle and the basis of simplicity. Simple living, high thinking is not just a thing to show, but the eyes of the observer automatically understand this from his facial expressions and behaviour. His childlike simplicity, gentleness and smile easily attract the newcomer.

His average height, well-built body, wheatish complexion, evergreen personality full of enthusiasm while wearing pant-shirt and a light smile can be understood as soon as one sees that he is an artist. It is natural to be overwhelmed by his personality when one sits in front of him and sees the miracle of the paintbrush and the feelings of the mind. Such a simple and modest person is also present in the painting.

Dr. Saxena's Family

Dr. Saxena's highly educated family on the paternal side includes his grandfather Shri Lala Shri Hori Lal Saxena, grandmother Smt. Dhanvantari Devi, father Shri Krishna Murari Saxena and mother Smt. Kamala Devi. An interesting fact is that his father was named Krishna Murari because he was born on the Ashtami of Bhadon. Baba Shri Lala Shri Hori Lal Saxena was the Tehsildar/Kanungo of Saraiyan Tehsil. Baba Shri Lala Shri Hori Lal Saxena was the owner of several hundred bighas of land.

On the maternal side, his maternal grandfather Lala Jagatnarayan Saxena was the Riyasatdar of Kayasthan, Bhanupura Riyasat of Kasganj district. There was a provision of coming and going in a chariot in his maternal grandfather's house, whereas Dr. Saxena's mother used to come and go in a palanquin before marriage.

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Dr. Saxena's family consists of four brothers and two sisters. He spent his childhood in this large and lively family. Dr. Saxena's elder brother is Mr. Anil Kumar Saxena, sisters are Mrs. Rekha and Mrs. Sushila, younger brothers are Mr. Sushil Kumar Saxena and Atul Kumar Saxena. When he entered adolescence in a pleasant environment, he got married to Mrs. Savita ji, from whom he has a daughter and a son.

School Education of Dr. Suneel Saxena

In 1960, on the instructions of Sunil Saxena's grandfather, his father left his job in Nainital and came to Farrukhabad. His father did not want to work in the tehsil or court, because he believed that corruption is high in these places. Grandfather, understanding this situation, got his father appointed to the post of art teacher in the Government Inter College of Farrukhabad.

In 1962, Sunil Saxena was taken to school by his Bengali uncle for admission in the first class. From 1962 to 1966, he received his primary education in the school of Farrukhabad. During this time he not only received basic education, but also imbibed the values and knowledge received from his family.

This is the personality of Dr. Sunil Saxena. He is a well-known painter, art expert, philosopher, beauty lover and art collector. People are attracted towards him because of his sweet voice, affectionate heart, simple and unpretentious nature and calm and humorous nature.

Being sensitive and full of compassion, he gets moved on seeing or hearing anyone's troubles. The essence of the best principles of frugality and non-possession is found in the life and philosophy of Saxena ji. He has adopted simplicity and frugality in every aspect of life and that is why his life is an exemplary example.

To understand the essence of the artist's work, it is necessary to be familiar with his life and personality. The personality of the artist is contained in his works, that is why it is important to understand his life before understanding his works of art. Life is like a line, which is not straight and flat. Just as lines can take many forms, similarly life is also expressed in different forms and colors. It is neither completely white nor black. Therefore, before understanding the amazing life of Dr. Saxena, it is necessary to understand his genealogy presented here.

College Education of Dr. Suneel Saxena

The story of dedication and perseverance towards art is an inspiring chapter in Dr. Sunil Saxena's life journey. When he was studying in class 12, his elder brother Mr. Anil Saxena took admission in B.Sc. The atmosphere at home was full of art, but there was also a pressure in the family that only science studies would be beneficial for the future. Despite the strong presence of art in the home environment, there was also pressure on Dr. Sunil Saxena to study science. Amidst family expectations and social pressure, Dr. Sunil Saxena maintained his dedication towards art and was determined to prove himself in this field. He promised his mother that he would make such a name in the field of art that the family would feel proud and he would be recognized in the world of art.

Kanpur University, one of the premier educational institutions of North India, provided Professor Sunil Saxena with a unique platform for higher education. In the academic year 1977-78, he started studying Master of Painting here. During this period, he devoted himself completely to developing his art skills and understanding. Kanpur University provided him with the opportunity not only to excel in academics but also to understand and assimilate diverse styles and techniques of art.

The contemporary teachers of the artist and their characteristics and inspirations; their influence on the artistic life and their contribution in personality development.

Professor Sunil Saxena, a prominent personality in the world of art, has always been inspired by various respected artists and teachers. Professors C. Bartaria (JJ School of Arts), S.N. Saxena (Miniature Painting Expert), Dr. Ram Kanwar Garg (Renowned Scene Painter), Dr. Makhbool Ansari (Modern Painter), and Dr. Abhay Dwivedi (Renowned Painter) have had a profound influence on his art journey. These ideals not only shaped his art outlook but also developed him as a teacher and mentor.

Dr. Sunil Saxena's teachers had deep knowledge and experience in the field of art. They studied the various traditions and styles of Indian art in depth. His teachers had extensive knowledge of many major art forms, including classical Indian painting, miniature art, and modern techniques.

The innovative techniques and creative ideas introduced by Bartaria provided a solid foundation to the art of Professor Sunil Saxena. The technical details and purity of art imparted by Bartaria guided Saxena's art journey and deeply influenced his artistic outlook. He taught Dr. Sunil Saxena the art of oil painting. The contemporary teachers of the artist and their characteristics and inspirations; their influence on the artistic life and their contribution in personality development.



Painting of Dr. Sunil Saxena

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S.N. Saxena, an expert in miniature painting, has been another important source of inspiration in Professor Sunil Saxena's life. The process of understanding the intricacies of miniature painting and the vibrant colours deeply indulged Saxena in this art form. D.S.N. Saxena's mastery of this art form inspired Saxena to master the art form. Inspired and motivated him to incorporate the techniques of miniature painting in his own work. Dr. S.N. Saxena Ji explained to his disciple the importance of creativity and freedom. He encouraged Dr. Sunil Saxena to express his personal perspective and his feelings towards art. This encouragement was not limited to only technical education, but he also guided Dr. Sunil Saxena towards self-introspection and various experiments in art.

Dr. S. N. Saxena and Dr. Ansari ji were the founders of a prestigious art club, and they made Dr. Sunil Saxena a member of this club. Various programs and exhibitions organized under this club inspired Dr. Sunil Saxena to reach new heights in the field of art.

In the Art Club event, an important exhibition of Dr. Sunil Saxena was organized in which his abstract painting 'Last Stage of Life' was displayed. This exhibition was shared with 100 other artists and Dr. Sunil Saxena's painting received the first prize as the best painting. This award gave a new turn to Dr. Sunil Saxena's art journey and his art journey started, with which he started making his mark in the world of art. This award and public exhibition gave him an important platform in the field of art and increased his confidence.

With this guidance, Dr. Sunil Saxena participated in various exhibitions and competitions to make his art reach a wider audience and make a mark in the art world. This helped him gain a prominent place in the field of art and gave a new identity to his work.

Art is not just a medium to express the beauty of the outer world, but it is also a compilation of an artist's inner experiences, memories, and emotions. It is a landscape in which one's deepest sensibilities and the depths of the soul are exposed. Each art work is a part of a personal journey in which the artist portrays his personal struggles, happiness, sadness, love, and hate. The practice of art is proof that an artist has the ability to transform his inner world into an outer form.

Memories play an important role in the creation of art. These memories are a collection of personal experiences and life events that influence the artist's mindset and emotions. The artist translates his memories into his art, making his works personal and emotionally authentic. When an artist expresses memories of his past in color, shape, and form, his art takes on depth and truth.

Ideas play a very important role in art. Ideas reflect the feelings and perceptions that are going on in the artist's mind. These ideas determine the form and content of art. For example, an artist who thinks about social issues in society can highlight those issues through his art and spread awareness in society. Ideas clarify the message and purpose of art and provide the audience with an immersive experience.

Review of the Flow of Art and the Contribution of Indian Literature

On studying the entire art work of Dr. Sunil Saxena, it is clear that there has been a constant innovation in his work with time, due to which his art has been beneficial for the wider public interest and happiness. Saxena ji crossed the boundaries of country and time, and exposed the reality of the era through contemporary depiction and formless figures. The abundance and diversity of his works is proof that Dr. Sunil Saxena's contribution to the field of Indian art is incomparable.

Modern art today has made it difficult for many to make sense of the new art. It is indeed a simple communication problem that has arisen between the artist and the audience. The differences in the perspectives of the artist and the common man raise questions about the possibility of communication, especially at the level of consciousness where it is necessary to establish emotional harmony between the two. Dr. Sunil Saxena is one of the few painters whose identity depends on this medium. While reviewing contemporary Indian modern art, Dr. Sunil Saxena's sorrow is not on the lack of creative freedom, but on the lack of experiencing and nurturing it. He regrets the search for uniqueness that many creators are desperate and suffering to achieve. Everyone tries to break and recreate the pictorial language afresh, thereby uprooting it.

Dr. Sunil Saxena freed the paths blocked by the prevailing academic art education. He emphasized individual expression and pure artistic approach with a clear direction instead of experiments being done in the name of traditional and so-called modern art. His art creations gave the art of the North an important place in the Indian scenario. Dr. Sunil Saxena was well aware of various styles, techniques, theories and idioms. But his inquisitive and inquisitive nature did not limit him to this.

Conclusion

Sadhana is the root of art, and when the artist's feeling connects with the sweet memories of life, that feeling takes the form of art.

The main source of an artist's expression is from the conscience, and this conscience is influenced by social life. The artist's aim should not be only the expression of feelings, but also the enrichment of various aspects of social life. He should analyse the trends of the age in his art and organize his feelings and feelings in such a way that the spiritual beauty and objectives of the painting can be revealed effectively.

The importance of an artist lies not only in self-expression, but also in critical feelings. For a high level of art, the interest of society and culture has to be given priority. This is possible only when the artist sacrifices his existence and aspirations and becomes a part of the society. In this way, his art can guide the common people and society.

If art does not arise from the conscience of the artist, its importance diminishes and the artist's talent fails. There is no value in those artworks which are depicted only on a superficial basis. The artist should evaluate his feelings, expression of emotions and success or failure in choosing the appropriate subject matter by reviewing the art. It is necessary for the reviewer to understand the important emotions and elements expressed in the painting, which make the art great. Expression of emotions is the basic element that gives the artist's work the form of art.

Dr. Sunil Saxena's paintings may have received less recognition in the present times than the expectations of his contemporary painting styles, but the respect and recognition he has received is enough to place the traditional painting styles in the category of the best painting styles.

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