re; Uttam infuses life on canvas with colours

Watching Uttam Kumar, a twenty-five years old painter, bringing life to the canvas is itself an awe-inspiring experience.

Although both of his hands do not function but such handicap could never dampen his spirits. He made pals with colours and brushes when he was in infancy and when he came in contact with a professional artist he expressed his full willingness to be his disciple. This opportunity that he availed of in year 2000 changed his whole artistic vision and broadened the horizons of his artistic abilities, which outshone his handicap.

Now this artist has got a chance to be a part of the 'City Walls Beautification Project' launched by Jammu Development Authority. This project, under which the students of Institute of Music and Fine Arts have been drawing paintings on the walls on either sides of the road near Hotel Asia, is being considered as an appreciable initiative to bring art out of the walls of the gallery. Apart from the students, Uttam has also been given the assignment by JDA. These days this artist has been making a Basohli painting a few yards away from other wall paintings.

About this painting Uttam tells, "This is my first wall painting. I have titled this Basohli painting as 'Milking Krishna'. Earlier I have made Basohli paintings only on paper, that too of smaller dimensions Apart from these I have done works on board also."

He expresses that by painting on the roadside his work will get good exposure and may generate more knowledge and awareness about miniature paintings in the minds of people- both from Jammu and other areas who pass by that site.

Uttam belongs to Udhampur district and is employed at Government City High School, Udhampur. Apart from working there, he also gives art tuitions to few students. About the person, from whom he has learnt the art of miniature paintings he tells,

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Uttam Kumar making Basohli painting 'Milking Krishna' on roadside

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"I respect my 'guru' Arun Sharma a lot. I came to his contact when I was his tenant in Udhampur. He used to do job at Udhampur Air Force School as an art teacher. He made me aware of the details of miniature painting. He trained me and made me aware of the colour scheme and the unique technique of making eyes and fingers which one has to always keep in mind while making a miniature painting."

Uttam maintains that he has always received support from his family members including his parents, wife, eight brothers and two sisters. A happy father of a few months old baby, Uttam has also received several awards for excellence in paintings. He has received award from Tara Chand, Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly, at Katra painting exhibition. After this exhibition about fifteen of his paintings were displayed at the chamber of Speaker. He has further been felicitated by Haji Nisar Ali, minister for sports and technical education and Nawang Rigzin Jora, minister for science and technology.

Uttam, however, has never felt much elated with