

POWAI - KE BADIYAN LOG

Arun Kalwankar

**Creating the Creator:
Shiva's very own man.
A divine artist
and an astrologer**



Form and substance, thought and images are the tools through which existence actualizes itself. Coupled with form, texture, space and composition, an artist is using these tools to actualize the existence of his art. Arun Kalwankar fondly called Aruneshwar believes that creating art is like dancing to the rhythm of cosmic consciousness. He creates only divinities in their different Avatars (forms) and these avatars are his expression and his vision.

What does it take to create divine on canvas? A mere artistic bend of fingers or a potential subtlety of mind? The answer lies in the creator's way of being. The subtle difference between this unique artist and others is his intense love for divine forms especially Shiva, which seems to blend itself with colours. Bold lyrical lines emerge to create vibrant forms of Lord Shiva and spiritual mandalas against the pristine radiance of smoldering deep blues, purples and rich earthy tones on canvases. Touched by an inner luminescence, the paintings exude an aura of calm and meditation, an essential earthiness enmeshes with sublime philosophy as form and colour blend perfectly to create this accessible sacredness.

Artist, poet, filmmaker and spiritualist this exceptional man has many facets. For over a decade he was a creative director for advertising agencies like Crest Communications, Clea Advertising and Ad Factors. His association with IIT Bombay began 15 years ago and since then he has been involved in the process of disseminating knowledge, creating educational films and documentaries as a producer.

An invitation to his home set in the idyllic surroundings of the campus, leaves one with a feeling of wonder an esoteric experience. All the walls are either painted or adorned with prized canvasses of his beloved Deity. The colour blue distinctly rules his palette, as most of the walls and canvasses stand witness in living colour. Here in this intently designed cosmos, different avatars of Shiva come to life. Innovative energy and a dynamic style of drawing characterize his work. Each painting is

suffused with a distinct mood and intensity and has been created as a visual expression of sutras from the Shivasutra. "Shiva enchants me", he says "He is the eternal enigma, the illuminator, the mystic, the shaman, the healer. I have created Shiva the divine dancer, in multiple dancing forms."

Entitled 'Meditative Moments' the paintings are created after deep meditative silences and the artist feels his paintings speak their own truths in silent tones. He says "Shiva is Nirakar Nirhantan, omnipresent in all beautiful forms of existences and the thought of living with Shiva enlightens me to create him as Vikral Adbhoot- huge, vibrant, enlightening and enchanting." His latest exhibition is based on the sutra Chaitanya Atma- Soul is the flame of life, it is graceful and understanding and allows harmony and spiritual space to oneself and others.

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