

**HindustanTimes**

**Title : Fascination for landscapes**

**Author : Rajkumari Tankha rtankha@hindustantimes.com**

**Location :**

**Article Date : 02/03/2012**

# Fascination for landscapes



■ His wife inspired him to take up art seriously. SUNIL GHOSH / HT PHOTO

**Rajkumari Tankha**  
■ rtankha@hindustantimes.com

This is his first exhibition (being held at Kala Mitra Gallery, Sector 58, Noida), but Sector 34, Noida, resident Kaustav Mukherjee is not new to the world of art. In fact, he has been drawing and painting since he was a child, living in Durgapur, West Bengal.

The fact that he was living in an area which had a number of art galleries in the vicinity influenced his young mind a lot. So, at an age when other boys were playing football, Mukherjee was visiting art galleries, watching art works and trying to understand what went into their making.

"I was a regular visitor to the Academy of Fine Arts, Durgapur, and the Birla Academy and CIMA Art Gallery, Kolkata," he says. These visits, plus his innate interest in drawing and painting, prompted him to pick up the brush. Mukherjee started painting, first with water-colours and then with oil paints.

To educate himself further, he started buying art books and magazines. "My mother was also a good artist. She had a good sense of colours. I learnt a lot watching her paint," he says. But taking up art as a full-time profession was never on his mind. For him, it was just a

way of expressing his deepest feelings. Mukherjee lost his mother at a very young age and it left a big void in him. Art helped him vent all his emotions, sorrows and frustrations.

So, after finishing school, Mukherjee did his B.Com from Praffula Chandra College, Kolkata, and then MBA from IIPM, Delhi. He then got a job with a firm in Noida as a research analyst. Till then, art was just a hobby, like music and reading. "It was only after I got married seven months back that I started painting seriously," he says, crediting his better half Roohi for it.

"She saw my works at our ancestral house in Durgapur and motivated me to start work again. That is how I started, and here I am," he smiles.

Mukherjee is basically a landscape artist. But he is also into abstract art.

"Landscapes limit you, but in abstract, one has a lot of option. It is a better way to express emotions," he says. Kolkata-based artist Hamen Majumdar and Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky are two of his favourite artists. Mukherjee doesn't restrict himself to painting alone. He is also into music (western classical) and reading (he loves Charles Dickens, Rabindranath Tagore, Satyajit Ray and Victor Hugo).