



Central University of Himachal Pradesh
हिमाचल प्रदेश केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय
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DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS



REPORT

SOLO ART EXHIBITION BY HARSH KUMAR

Name of the Activity: Art Exhibition

Title: Mourning of the river

Date: 5th June, 2023

Inauguration Time: 12:30 PM

Venue: Himadri Art Gallery, Department of Visual Arts, Radha Krishan Community Centre, CUHP, Dehra Campus

Objective of the Workshop: Featuring diverse artistic practices of Harsh Kumar

Description:

The Visual Arts Department of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dehra Campus, hosted a captivating exhibition on 5th June, 2023. The exhibition featured the exceptional talent of Harsh Kumar, a Masters final year student with a diverse artistic practice spanning painting, photography, installation and videography. Dr.Ujjwal Kadode, Dr.Ved P. Palliwal, Mr. Manish Kumar Gond, Mr. Dinesh Pal , Mrs. Ramiya Arry and almost all the Visual students were present in the exhibition.

Harsh Kumar's artistic philosophy revolves around simplifying subjects and revealing the inherent artistry embedded within the collective consciousness of humanity. He believes that art transcends language and aims to convey his ideas in a universal manner. The enchanting flora and scenic beauty of the surrounding environment have profoundly influenced his artistic sensibilities, which are evident in his recent works in oil and mixed media.



The central theme explored the intricate relationship between human civilization and rivers, the very life force that births and sustains civilizations. Harsh Kumar embarked on a river bank journey, tracing the path between the River Vyas in Himachal Pradesh and the Yamuna River, which flows into Delhi.



Within this exploration, Harsh Kumar incorporated performance and text interventions into the landscape, showing concerns surrounding urbanization. He shed light on issues such as faulty garbage disposal systems, deforestation, soil exploitation, and the detrimental consequences of development in the name of progress. Through his art, he emphasized the damaging effects of these actions on nature, ultimately leading to the demise of the river. Total twelve works of 21.5 x 29.5 inches were displayed in the exhibition.

Technique:

Notably, all of Harsh Kumar's works in the exhibition were developed using the cyanotype technique, an initial method of developing photographs. Cyanotype is an ancient photographic printing process. It involves coating a surface, such as paper or fabric, with a mixture of ferric ammonium citrate and potassium ferric cyanide. When exposed to ultraviolet light, these chemicals react to produce a deep blue colour. Harsh Kumar's choice to employ the cyanotype technique added a unique visual quality to his artworks, enhancing the narrative and capturing the essence of the river bank journey.

The exhibition attracted a diverse audience, including students, faculty members, art enthusiasts, and members of the local community. Visitors were captivated by Harsh Kumar's artistic versatility and his ability to convey messages. The exhibition created a platform for dialogue and discussions on sustainability, urbanization, and humanity's responsibility towards the environment.





Outcomes:

In conclusion, Harsh Kumar's exhibition, "Mourning of the River," was an outstanding display of artistic talent and a powerful exploration of the relationship between human civilization and rivers. The artist's use of the cyanotype technique added a distinct visual dimension to the artworks, enhancing their impact. The event underscored the Visual Arts department's dedication to fostering a creative and socially conscious environment within the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dehra Campus. By organizing exhibitions that address social and environmental issues, the department encourages students and the community to engage critically with art and its role in shaping society.

Prof.(Dr). Nirupama Singh

Head of the Department, CUHP

-Report by Deepika Gautam, Research Scholar, CUHP