



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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## This artist is in love with Ganga

Naveen Kumar, TNN Mar 11, 2011, 10.00pm IST

VARANASI: It has taken six long years for Kevin Pearsh, the Australia-born French artist, to come up with 'Ganga-21', his collection of 21 paintings of the Ganga, showcasing its varied forms and richness.

The French artist not only shared his experiences of long journey along the Ganga that allowed him to realise the beauty of the river from close quarters, but he also felt that there was still a lot to be learned from the experiences that was enough to trigger the imagination of any painter.

"Every time you come close to the river, you tend to fall in love with it. It is not only the lifeline of so many cities in the country, but also marks a complete journey from life to death in the life-cycle of individual, which is really fascinating," said the artist, who has been regularly coming to the city since 2005. "For me, the scenes of ordinary life along the river are springboards to imagination, more than the aesthetic beauty that one looks for while watching the river," he added.

Kevin has made a vast, complex and intriguing reflection created by the ripples of the Ganga as the theme for central painting, leaving the art connoisseurs to ponder over the different dimensions and colour offered by the spiritual river. "I have drawn inspiration from subtle hues of saris, colourful range of spices and magic of Indian temples as reflected in the river. Similarly, the ritual bath and ordinary life existing along the river has remained the source of inspiration from the paintings," he informed.

It may be mentioned here that Kevin's elegant paintings have delighted art lovers all over the world. His work can be found in major art galleries such as Tate Gallery in London, the Museum in Santa Barbara and the Fitzwilliam in Cambridge (UK). The artist has made Burgundy (France) his home for the past 25 years.

"To get closer to the mysteries of the river, I have regularly taken ritual bath, right from Devprayag (confluence of Bhagirathi and Alaknanda) to Ganga Sagar and found it to be really fascinating. The ghats of Varanasi seems to be filled with spirituality while the loneliness of the river near Kahalgaon (Bihar) is catching too," said the artist. "As we look at them, we recreate space in our minds, and our feelings free themselves from world around us. This is something one can not experience in the rivers of western countries," he said.