

Artists and people who influenced you in your artistic career

Madhur Sen (India)

Life to me is all about interaction and introspection.

I love working with human and animal forms. I believe my personal artistic growth happened, when I could combine my free flowing organic sculptural forms with the shapes made on the potter's wheel. My sculptural background combined with the wheel gives me enough flexibility to alter shape and give it a new dimension. Sometimes it is conflict; other times it is harmony.

It is a challenge but I love it.

In my college days, I was inspired by the 20th century artists Henry Moore and Augustus Rodin's work amongst many other classical artists. Though their work is very different from each other, yet their creations display the same power and boldness.

And in the ceramic world Hans Cooper and Bernard Leach inspire me the most. Two different disciplines yet so much in common... It takes a lifelong commitment and the journey that is full of ups and downs combined with heart aches and boundless joy.

The person who was first to spot any creative bent in me, was my elder sister Indrani who took it upon herself as a mission to get me through art school. Without her support and belief in me, my life would have certainly taken a very different turn.

Then came the two most important people in my life at a very early age and helped me immensely to shape my artistic Journey.

Firstly Mr. Gullu Sen, a graphic designer who then was a senior in my art school (currently a creative person who is widely respected in the field of advertising in India) came into my life.

He became my mentor, guide, later on my life partner and (now-mainly) a critic of my work!

He helped me to explore my ideas in clay and also in other mediums. He always pushes me to explore the world of art beyond ceramics to music, cinema, painting and literature. He introduced me to the meaning and importance of line drawing. He believes the stroke or the line reflects an artist's passion, conviction in self, his/her personal philosophy and most importantly spontaneity. I am immensely inspired by his drawings and constantly try to make my clay figures like them even till date.

The second person is the late Mr. Pratap Sen a philosopher, teacher, director, actor, painter and my father-in-law. He taught me the meaning of basic design, the importance of line, shape, space, mass and light, the value of Positive and Negative Space. A great believer in abstract and progressive form of art his teaching and guidance helped me cope in the Fine Arts College, where I specialized in Sculpture as my main subject.

After my completion of 4 years of Bachelor of Fine of Arts, (1982-1986) I was fortunate to get admission (1986) at Lalit Kala Academy's Garhi 'Artist Studio' (Delhi). My ceramic journey kind of started here. Interaction with all these artists enriched me, as I worked here for sixteen years, till I had my own studio.

Here at the ceramic department I could learn, work and grow along with all the stalwarts of the Indian ceramic world. I had the opportunity to learn and watch some great artists at work. Among them whom I admire the most, are Ms. Ira Chaudhary whose pottery forms, with delicate scraffito and inlay work gives her a very distinct identity and an unique signature. On the other hand,

work of artist PR Daroz has a very bold, powerful and an expansive sculptural quality. His scale and spontaneity is very impressive. He is constantly exploring, experimenting and expanding his artistic ability.

My world and awareness towards the ceramic medium broadened as I ventured into new horizon and started travelling for clay symposiums, Residency program, and workshops within India and abroad, in places like Spain, Japan and China...where I worked and interacted with some distinguished artists around the world. The interaction with these artists enriched my outlook towards ceramic immensely. This beautiful exchange of culture, clay tradition and thoughts cannot be substituted with anything else. It's too valuable.

This Global exchange and mixture of Clay and Culture gives me the biggest joy of learning and keeps me wanting to keep on turning the wheel of good fortune on and on, till we are fused like clay and glaze.

For me there can be no other way of life than discovering and nurturing clay, and of course being nurtured by it.

Few images of Gullu Sen's work:

My work images:

In conclusion, I would like to say that each one of the above ceramists has contributed immensely to the growth and awareness of contemporary ceramic in India.

Their individual and collective efforts have paved the way for the boom in the market for studio pottery. Though the journey ahead is very long and difficult, I feel we have come a long way. We hope the younger generation will carry the banner into the future.

Some work images of the above mentioned artists

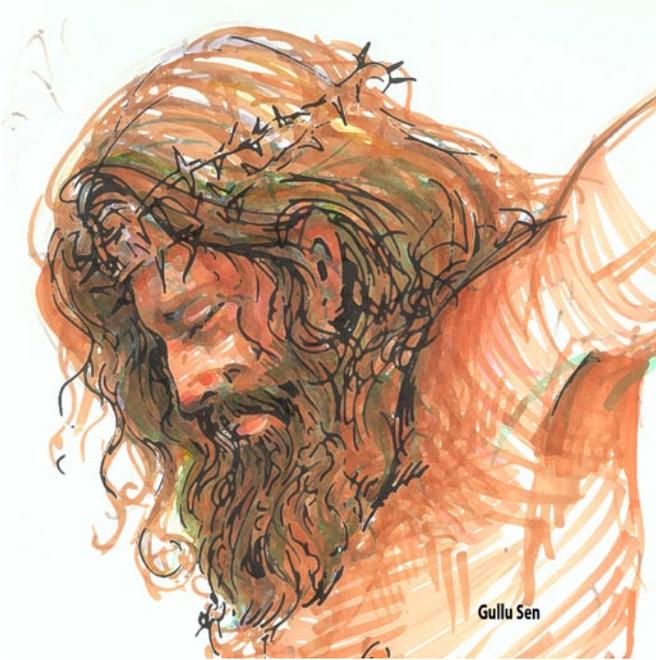


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Ceramic Sculptures by Madhur Sen 2005

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