

MY JOURNEY WITH ART

Contributed by Mr Ajay Joshi (PGP 1980) A number of his paintings have been uploaded on Instagram under the id [ajayjoart](#). If anyone is interested in buying to support charity, or to exchange ideas/tips on painting, please connect at ajayjo@gmail.com.



Sartaj at IIMA

Though I never had the opportunity for any formal training in art, I have been interested in painting and sketching from childhood. I had made some sketches even while at IIMA (1978-80).

A few years ago, I started off with painting again. The first several pieces were quite, well, bad! Then I found a guru. It is YouTube. It is an excellent place to learn the basics. Initially, I did oil-pastel on paper then followed it up with acrylic on paper and finally acrylic on canvas. I have been trying to learn and improve on composition, colour mixing, light and shade and perspective.

Most of the time I make copies of famous paintings. Starting with still-life/flowers, I have moved on to landscapes and the human figure. I look for famous paintings which are colorful and have a simple beauty. As the painting progresses, I ask Suman (my wife) to point out any flaws in line or colour. So, the final product is actually a collaborative effort!

I have always been impressed by the impressionist painters. I choose paintings by Van Gogh, Monet etc and make a copy. Husain is another favourite painter whose works are simple yet bold and impactful. In a recent issue of The WIMWIAN, I saw a painting and that inspired me to do a painting on IIMA.

It is an interesting and useful way to keep occupied. There is a sense of achievement as each new painting shows an improvement over the previous ones. The appreciation received from my PGP 80 classmates has been very encouraging and has inspired me to take up more challenging pieces, and of course it helps with the conversation!!

Contrary to what a lot of people think, painting (or drawing) is very easy to learn. While a structured short-term course is the best way to start, excellent information on basics and techniques is also available on the internet, in abundance and for free. In my estimate, 30 hours of reading and 30 hours of practice painting is enough to reach an acceptable level. I recommend acrylic paints because they are quick drying, affordable and mistakes can be corrected by over-painting. The acrylics can be used on paper (thick, textured) as well as canvas. Of course all the other mediums such as water colour, oils, pencil etc. each have their own magic.

Most of my paintings have been gifted to friends and family. A few are on display in my home. I soon hope to reach a skill-level where I can sell the pieces and donate the proceeds to charity.

Online Digital Gallery: <https://tinyurl.com/AJ-Digital-Art-Gallery>



M F Husain – Parvati and Degas Blue Dancers



Lake Pichola, Udaipur



Self-Portrait - Pablo Picasso and Van Gogh