

“I feel a certain rhythm in nature when I try to observe it. It has its own diverse moods that are reflected in the form of vibrations. And this is exactly what I try to capture in my work”, says artist Suresh Pushpangathan who can best be described as a nature lover. His artwork is a perfect interplay of light and colour.

A childhood exposure to nature led Suresh to start painting at an early stage, eventually committing to his creativity when he enrolled at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Bangalore, graduating in 2002. In 2011, he completed a Master’s degree in Art & Design from the University of Bedfordshire, Luton, United Kingdom.

The son of a traditional sculptor, Suresh grew up watching his father at work and, it is at his feet that the young boy sat whittling away at pieces of wood. This was his introduction to the fascinating world of art. His early childhood was spent wandering in the lush tropical countryside of Varkala in Kerala, an area speckled with backwater reflections, serene lily ponds and enchanting seascapes. It had a lasting impact on his work as an artist and this is a memory that he constantly revisits in his haunting work so relevant in a world of fast disappearing flora and fauna.

His inborn talent, a childhood spent in rural Kerala and later-day training as an art student are reflected in his sensitive work. Deft brushstrokes in thick and thin paints, smooth blends, the interplay of light and the ability to convey perspective, mystery and texture is a reflection of Pushpangathan’s creativity and skill as an artist for whom memories feed his visuals. Some of the canvases bring the viewer right to the edge of a pond while others look across the leafy expanse of water to the other bank presenting the aquatic fauna amid a play of rich colour and texture with vivid impact. Clearly apparent in his evocative work is the influence of the Impressionists and the Post Impressionists particularly Claude Monet. Suresh often adopts a middle path between representation and abstraction and his visuals are free from the confines of strict realism. To him the palette and application are as important as the subject matter and integral to the effective expression of an emotion.