

V Hariraam

In 1972, a life-changing source of inspiration and motivation hit me like lightning one evening, as I stepped into the basement of an art gallery in New Delhi. The works of Gabre Kristos Desta, a painter from Ethiopia, nestled in an obscure corner, were simply stunning. His works entitled 'That underwater feeling', 'Jazz music for the soul', 'Crystalline' and 'Power', were abstracts of immense excitement for me.

I was born in India. My thoughts, my ideas and my vision are embedded in western culture. Growing up in a post independence India with Shakespeare, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Antoine de St. Exupery, Paulo Coelho, as well as the earlier renaissance painters, I was a hungry receptacle of the questioning mind. Global events sent a burst of exhilaration through my veins. All my knowledge thus far, rested only on theories I had studied in textbooks. The practice, when I got to it, was accompanied by its own attendant deficiencies. Decades of experimentation followed. A body of work...The horizon only appeared on my first visit to New York in 2008, the hub and home for abstract painters.

My real career as an abstractionist started in the year 1999. I abandoned form content in my work, in favour of what came to stay as abstraction. In an ultimate analysis, abstract painting leads and assists one in gaining insights that elevate our sensibilities, to realize the existence of an ultimate reality. The conscious mind can experience a work of art that is devoid of form content, making certain artistic genius identifiable and ubiquitous.