



## **Conflicts of an artist's mind**

Magunta Dayakar

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Book No: 1

These are my everyday experiences. These experiences caused so many conflicts in my mind. People called me a great artist. But when it comes to buying, I never get a decent price for my work. Sometimes, I stopped painting.

But.. only for a few months. Again I started to work.

This has been the pattern for the last 20 years. Now in this last phase of my life, I have come to a decision that I will continue with painting. Because I have no other option....

**-Magunta Dayakar**

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## “Is Heart... the enemy of artist’s survival?”

Today one man came to my studio. He said that he wants to see my lightscape paintings. He is a driver to one of our children who comes to my school to learn art. After seeing for a few minutes, he felt the magic of the lightscape paintings. When he saw them from close distance, they looked completely abstract. From a distance they are appearing as if though nature is simply existing there.

He told me that my paintings are really wonderful. He said that he had seen these kind of scenes in his native place. He also said that, these paintings made him remember his childhood days in the village. Pure pleasure in his eyes.

With his words I became alive in my mind. My real abstract paintings gave a lot of joy to an ordinary person who is not having any knowledge in art. A small question arose in my mind.

“When a work of art moves an ordinary person, then why the same work is not moving gallery owners?”

Then again another question ,”Should the artist work to satisfy the gallery owners, who follow the trends usually? Are should he work to satisfy his artistic thirst?”

Finally another question “Is Heart... the enemy of artist’ survival ?”

## You are a great artist!

One day an art collector came to see my paintings. After seeing the paintings he said to me, "You are a great artist. These paintings are priceless. Especially ...that light...its wonderful.

I want to buy a few paintings...", he paused for a few seconds, again he said... "But you know I am not able to pay much money, even though these paintings deserve good money."

I have no option except to give them for the price, he is willing to pay. He told me, before leaving the studio with my paintings, "Whenever you finish new paintings you can call me, I love to collect these paintings. Such great paintings they are."

## Oh...! Wonderful!

One art promoter called me. She said “ Oh...! Wonderful! What great paintings they are! I never seen such a beautiful light in any paintings. I love to sell your paintings. Send a few of your paintings.”

I sent a few of my paintings.

She told me that she sold two of my paintings and she is sending that money also. And she also asked me to send more paintings to sell.

I received the money of my two sold paintings. I enjoyed so much, because here some one is sincerely promoting my paintings. I sent more paintings to her. After that months and months are disappearing from calender. I have not got any communication from her. I tried to call her. No answer.

Now, sometimes her words are ringing in my mind...”  
Oh...! Wonderful! What great paintings they are !”

## What I will do with all those paintings!

One day a student came to me to know about my art classes. She told me that she wants to join to learn art. I explained to her what I teach in my art classes. After listening to me, she asked a question “ Do you mean I will be able to do ten paintings when I have finished my beginner’s course? ”

I told her that she has to do more paintings than that, otherwise she could not understand the process of painting.

She exclaimed..” Oh. my....What I will do with all those paintings! All I need is four or six paintings for my house!  
“

I cannot understand till this day, why can’t she simply buy those six paintings in the market instead of coming to me to learn!

## I only know...

Someone who knows about my financial mess, asked me, " You are a great artist. Many artists are selling their paintings for huge amounts. Why don't you sell your work? If you sell, your problems will be solved overnight."

I told him" They know how to sell. I only know how to paint "

## At that moment...

One day a student came to me to join in my art classes.

She told me that she wants to be a nationally famous artist and wants to sell her paintings.

She asked me whether I can do that for her?

I replied " Lady... If I know how to sell paintings why should I take painting classes! And moreover I only know how to teach painting."

She is confused. After a few moments she said .. " But everybody is telling me you are a very good artist. Then why don't you help me to achieve my dream of becoming a successful artist? "

I didn't know at that moment how to tell her that, "Being a successful artist is different from being a good artist "

## I don't know....

Some one asked me..." You are an artist. Do you love nature very much? "

" I don't know "

he paused for one moment, then asked me..." Do you love money? "

" I don't know "

" do you love beautiful ladies? "

This time I paused for one moment and replied " ...I don't know "

" Do you love your paintings "

" I don't know "

After that he asked me with a slight irritation in his tone "

Then what do you love in life ? "

" Happiness " .I replied without hesitation.

## Art Critic

An art critic went to the opening of an exhibition. All the paintings were modern art. He praised them with a lot of words along with many descriptions. His wife listened all that praise.

When they came back to home, she asked him “ Are they really that great dear ? And when did you study about art ? ”

He paused for one moment and then replied...” I studied last month about it. ”

“ One month!” she exclaimed. And asked him” One month is enough to learn about it? ”

He smiled at her and said these words “ Even one month is not necessary. All you have to do is learn a few words like ..Aesthetic sense, pattern, interpretation, expression, textures ...”

## Our rules

People called him a good artist. Everybody praised his paintings. One day he went to a gallery with his works. Gallery owner also praised those paintings.

Then he asked the artist..." where have you got your degree? "

" I am a self taught artist "

"..Oh! Any awards? "

" No sir... I have never sent my paintings to any competitions "

" Till this day how many shows you did? "

" No sir... Till this day I didn't think of exhibitions. Only now..I come here to ask you for that."

Gallery owner didn't talk for a few moments. Then he said " I am sorry "

" Why sir? My paintings are not good? " The bewildered artist asked this question.

" No. Not that. Your paintings are really good. But we have our rules. We only exhibit the works of artists who are having degrees, awards and who have conducted shows...those are our rules"

## I am busy

One young lady came to me and asked me “ Sir. I want to learn painting. How much is it going to cost me? ”

I replied “ Now I am busy. Come after some time. ”

She came after few months and asked me.

“ Sir. I want to learn painting. How much time it will take? ”

“ Still I am busy. Come after sometime ” I told her. Again she came after a few months.

She asked me...” Sir, I am very much interested to learn painting. Please teach me.”

“ Now I am free. I will teach you.” I told her.

## Understanding

Someone asked me..” why you are teaching painting is such a serious way? “

I told him...” It’s understanding the beauty of life “

“ Beauty of life... I don’t understand “ he said

“ Beauty of life means understanding God...” I told him

“ What is the connection between God and painting? I don’t understand...” he was bewildered

“ God is in you. I am making the students to understand themselves. Understanding themselves means understanding the God. That is ultimate beauty of the life. “

“ Now I understood “ he said.

## Color mixing

One day a student came to me to join in my art classes. She said to me “ I know painting. All I need is some color mixing tips... Can you tell me? “  
I told her “I have not yet understood painting completely. So you are more knowledgeable than me. “I paused for a moment and said..”... and moreover I never thought about color mixing “

## Success

“ Your paintings are masterpieces. One day you will get recognition. See...sometimes artists will get their success at the end of their lives or after their death.” he said to me sympathetically.

“ Do you call it success? ” I asked him.

## Prerequisite

“ Many artists starved in their lifetime. Later they became great artists ” , He said to encourage me.

“ Is starving a prerequisite to become a great artist? ” I asked him.

## Very expensive

She said “ Your painting classes are very expensive “

I am used to these kind of words. I asked her “ Why you want to learn art? “

“ It’s my childhood dream “ she said

“ How much do your shoes cost? “ I asked her. She got confused. She had no clue why I asked that question. But she replied “ five hundred dollars “

“ How much are you paying for each of my classes? “ I asked her.

“ ten dollars “ she said.

“ Lady...You bought the shoes for five hundred dollars. After few months you will throw them away. You are paying only ten dollars for my classes. Whatever you will learn in my classes, that will be with you till your last day on this earth. I paused one moment and asked her “...Now tell me ...which is expensive “

## Why they are good...

A friend advised me, “ You are not good at marketing. Everything needs good marketing strategies to sell. Hire a good marketing person. He will sell your paintings.”

People have an opinion about me that I won't listen to their useful suggestions. They think that, if I listen to them my life would have been different. So this time I decided to listen to them. I hired a marketing person. People told me that he is the best. He can sell anything. I showed him all my paintings. After seeing them he was excited. He told me that he had never seen this kind of work.

Next day he came to me. He said “ I got an idea to sell these paintings. With that idea we will sell these things easily.”

I also excited. I asked him “ How? ”

“ We publicize that Bill Gates bought two of your paintings. Then everybody will buy your paintings.”

I got confused. “ But Bill Gates didn't buy my paintings.”

He laughed and he said “ Who cares? By the time People knew that Bill Gates didn't buy your paintings ,you would have become a star artist.”

Now I understood why they are good at marketing.

## The Framer

Many artists are living in that area. They do paintings everyday. Framing the paintings is always a problem to them. One day a person opened a small frame shop in that area. Every artist enjoyed having that shop close to them. They used to go to that shop to frame their pictures. The framer was also giving concessions to them. Within no time the framer became very much busy. Slowly frames began to cost more. Now artists are not in a position to frame their paintings in that shop. Some times they have to part with more money with the framer than what they are getting for their work. But they have no option. They had become used to his frames. They began to believe that without those frames their paintings won't look good.

Few years passed. The framer constructed a beautiful house. The framer invited all the artists when he is entering into his new house. Everybody went there. They congratulated him for building such a beautiful house. Now the framer hired another four assistants to help him in his business. And he is planning to start another shop in another city.

But all those artists are living in their old one room apartments. They are doing the same paintings. No assistants. They used to say..." Creativity is personal "

He is always telling to the artists who ever comes to him for framing, " Artist is a God to me."

## No Glamor

A exhibition is going on. Many artists attended the show in the gallery, as usual.

“ I love to die as an artist, even if i have to starve till my last minute” One of the artists declared emotionally.

“Death is death, whatever way you die or whoever you are. No glamor lies in death.” Someone whispered in my ear.

## How do you call them...

“You know ...” some one said to me sympathetically  
“Many of the artists are innocents, they don’t have much intelligence to survive. They don’t know anything other than painting”  
“Then how do you call them artists?” I asked him.

## It's the name

In an exhibition hall, one of the artists was saying emotionally, "Our paintings are priceless. when the times comes our name itself will fetch millions. That's the value of our work "

" Yes... they are priceless. That means ... not having any price. Thats why artists could not sell their work, only their name. It's the name which sells. " some voice whispered inside me.

## Than becoming a great artist.....

“ I will devote my life to paintings. One day I will become a great artist”, he said with confidence.

“ Once you become a great artist...what you will do after that? “ I asked him.

“ I will earn lots of money by selling my paintings”

“ After that....? “

He became confused.

Again I asked him...” You can sell your paintings, if you are known as a great artist. So it is the money you can earn by becoming a great artist.” I paused for one moment then I asked him “ ...why don't you try to earn money instead of becoming a great artist to earn money. I think earning money is easier than becoming a great artist.....”

( Book no. 2 will come soon...)