

Portrayal of Artist Sudha Daniel – his creative period in Portugal & United Kingdom

Preamble

This article is a portrayal of Sudha Daniel, which I wrote after I had the opportunity of interviewing him recently. He is a very gifted artist who worked in close collaboration with me during his two-year **Artist Residency (2008-2009) at the Escola Superior de Educação, Instituto Politécnico, Viana do Castelo, Portugal**. He created an amazingly colourful body of oil paintings and presented two solo exhibitions in Portugal.

After his return to the United Kingdom he went on to create a unique genre of oil paintings on the Cosmos. He has just launched a major video installation exhibition of his 41 oil painting images at the Mutli-Faith Centre, University of Derby, England.

Professor Anabela Moura

Sudha Daniel is a British professional, practising, freelance, international artist/oil painter. After a life-changing experience of the Tsunami, 2004, he gave up his job as a Fine Art senior lecturer at the University of Derby, United Kingdom to devote himself full-time to painting – his gift and passion. His other strengths are music and photography.

His painting is a happy and rich fusion of the best elements of both the East & West as he grew up in Singapore; he was introduced to sophisticated Chinese painting traditions and brushwork by masters in Singapore/Malaysia. His colour sensibility emanates from all the visual experiences he has been through in UK/Europe, South-East Asia, China, India, and the Grand Canyon, USA. With his global outlook, he is looking forward to exhibiting in both art and science venues across the world to give an opportunity for people to view, share, enjoy and celebrate his artwork.

Over two years, 2008-2009, we were delighted to have Sudha as an **Artist in Residence at the Escola Superior de Educação, Instituto Politécnico, Viana do Castelo, Portugal**. He was very warmly welcomed by the staff and students and was provided with a large, excellent studio space and facilities. As Artist Resident he also made an awe-inspiring contribution to some studio art teaching in painting for under/postgraduate students.

In his creation of 28 large oil paintings he was hugely inspired by the natural beauty and the rich Minhu culture of northern Portugal, especially the celebration of colourful traditional festivals of Viana do Castelo and the surrounding villages.

His artwork in Portugal culminated in two solo spectacular painting exhibitions which were well received and celebrated by staff, students (including Erasmus students from various European countries) and the wider community of northern Portugal.

Subsequently, after returning to England, Sudha created another 20 oil paintings on the theme of the Cosmos inspired by imagery of powerful telescopes, especially the Hubble Telescope. They bring alive extraordinary and amazing features of the Cosmos - an exciting breakthrough in oil painting.

Sudha's Cosmos artwork has been contributing to exciting **discussion on the subject of Art & Science** coming together. Indeed on this very subject, his Cosmos painting images

were used as exemplars at an international university conference, **'Dialogue between Art and Science'** held at Instituto Politécnico, Viana do Castelo, Portugal in 2011.

In August 2013, when he was invited by the organisers of the international Annual Palaeontology Symposium, he displayed some of his Nature & Cosmos artwork at the Royal Society in Edinburgh. It was much appreciated by distinguished biologists, palaeontologists, earth scientists and Natural History Museum curators from UK and abroad.

In his latest major solo exhibition in the United Kingdom, 41 oil painting images inspired by the **'Enchanting Beauty of Nature'** on Earth and his spectacular visual interpretations of the **'Splendour of Cosmos'** will be projected as a video installation with ambient music, at the auditorium of Multi-Faith Centre, University of Derby, England.

At the recent opening ceremony of the above exhibition, eminent Emeritus Professor Jonathan Powers of physics, who is also gifted in music and art, gave a fascinating talk about Sudha's paintings to the audience.

This exhibition is a unique celebration of "ART, SCIENCE & MEDITATION coming together...luminous, iridescent, awesome, sublime, out-of-this-world, dreamlike and mesmerising features to refresh the spirit".

Sudha's exhibition not only makes a valuable contribution in greater appreciation of the visual beauty of our natural environment amidst our own planet and encourage positive reasons for preserving it, but also enhances awareness of the awe-inspiring beauty of the Cosmos of which we are an integral part.

The beauty and optimism evoked by Sudha's paintings have already inspired and uplifted the hearts of many people; some have even expressed that they have been healed by the serene and peaceful atmosphere of his paintings.

Below are sample images of his oil paintings in Portugal and England; plus poster and images of the venue and the artist.

To view the YouTube versions of his **'Splendour of Cosmos'** & **'Enchanting Beauty of Nature'** videos with uplifting ambient music, click on the web links below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XInzYuWDSCY>

http://youtu.be/_IAfruXPHD4

His Artist Statement below puts his Cosmos artwork in clearer context.

Sudha Daniel

Artist Statement: 'Splendour of Cosmos'.

"I enjoy the beauty of colour from all kinds of sources, but above all I revel in the spectacular beauty of light and colour in nature in all its manifestations everywhere -- from the tiniest elements on our earth to the most infinite in the cosmos, which is my ultimate source of inspiration that enhances my aesthetic consciousness and sensitivity.

As a subject for painting and as a colourist I find the cosmos very exciting, uplifting and liberating, stretching my imagination to the limit. What a gift and pleasure to celebrate the stunning beauty, awe, wonder, mystery and magic of the infinite cosmos of which we are an integral part! The countless manifestations of light and the myriad of colours are like a

visual paradise and dream for me. My cosmos paintings are very much a personal and aesthetic interpretation of some aspects of this breathtaking beauty.

My fascination with the cosmos stems from my childhood days when I used to be enchanted and mystified by the sparkling and twinkling stars of the night sky. Now, the ability of accessing fantastic imagery of the cosmos produced by extremely powerful telescopes has not only been an enormous source of inspiration, but also another awakening and enlightening experience.

The beauty of the nebulas are particularly fascinating for me as there seems to be so much serenity and turbulence co-existing in them, where stars form, thrive, explode, implode amidst mysterious nebular gases and dust. The astounding cyclical phenomenon of birth, life, death and re-birth of stars recurring billions of times out there is so reminiscent of countless cycles in our human life and in all living things that is also happening around us here on our earth."

His art website: <http://sudhacolours.co.uk/> shows a wide range of his painting images, plus substantial information about him.

His contacts are:

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Figure1. Homage to Viana do Castelo. 2008. oil on canvas. 80 x120 cm. Sudha Daniel.
Copyright: Courtesy of the Artist.



Figure 2. Beauty of Viana Spring. oil on canvas. 2008. 80 x120 cm. Sudha Daniel.
Copyright: Courtesy of the Artist.



Figure 3. Spring Flower Girl, Portugal. oil on canvas. 2009. 80 x120 cm. Sudha Daniel.
Copyright: Courtesy of the Artist.



Figure 4. Blessing of Santa Maria. oil on canvas. 2009. 80 x120 cm. Sudha Daniel.
Copyright: Courtesy of the Artist.

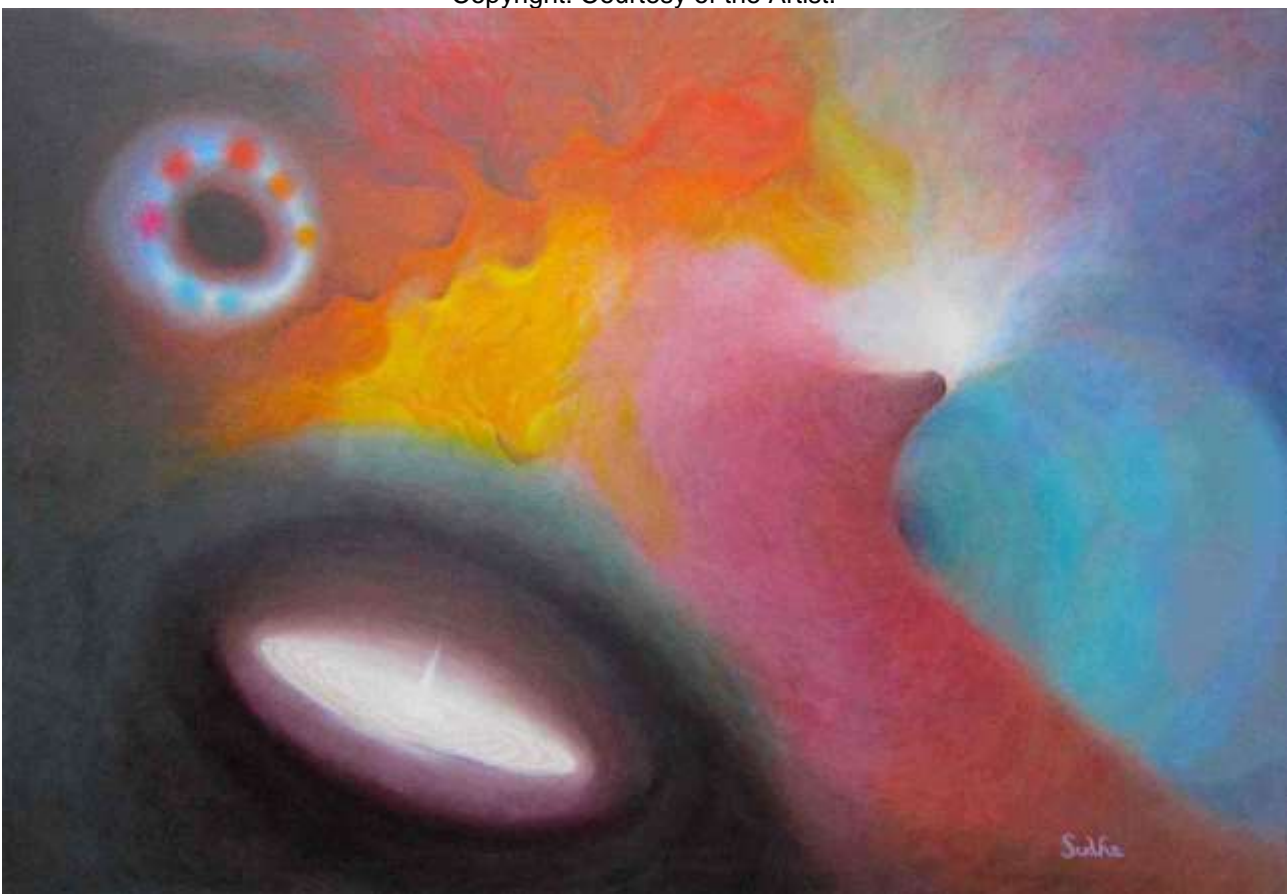


Figure 5. Cosmos Splendour 1. 2011. oil on canvas. 80 x 100 cm. Sudha Daniel.
Copyright: Courtesy of the Artist.



Figure 6. Phoenix Nebu Sphere. 2011. oil on canvas. 80 x 100 cm. Sudha Daniel.
Copyright: Courtesy of the Artist.



Figure 7. Evolving Nebular Stars. 2012. oil on canvas. 80 x 100 cm. Sudha Daniel.
Copyright: Courtesy of the Artist.



Figure 8. Cosmos Storm and Calm. 2013. oil on canvas. 110 x 155 cm. Sudha Daniel.
Copyright: Courtesy of the Artist.



Figure 9. Sudha, with Cosmos Splendour 2, painting. 2011. oil on canvas. 80 x120 cm.
Sudha Daniel. Copyright: Courtesy of the Artist.



Figure 10. Exhibition Poster Image, at Multi-Faith Centre, University of Derby. 2013. Sudha Daniel.
Copyright: Courtesy of the Artist.