



ARTS

PAINTER, PRINTMAKER, DESIGNER: Dr. MURALIDHAR TALI

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ABSTRACT

Dr. Muralidhar Tali was an academic portrait painter par excellence but viewed from an all India perspective he could not be considered a force to reckon with in the field of contemporary art like his colleagues and contemporaries. Dr. Muralidhar Tali combines in him the sensibilities of an academician and the progressive nuances of modernism in Odisha.

KEYWORDS :**INTRODUCTION**

Dr. Muralidhar Tali (1918-1997) Dharmapada Awardee was born in the village of Mahantipada, Sambalpur, Odisha in 1918. The famous artist Dr. Muralidhar Tali, who had created a special position in the hearts of millions of art loving man and women of Odisha. His father was an effigy making artist. Dr. Muralidhar Tali was by nature a simple and peace loving man and from his childhood, he was helping his father in his work during his leisure time. He was influenced and Impressed by his father from early childhood and therefore his father is considered as the first was interested to send him to Calcutta for art education from the arts school.

LIFE AND CAREER

He went to Cuttack in 1946 and began his career as a designer in the Industrial Department in 1948 and finally joined in the Handloom and Textile Department Government of India in 1957 and retired as an Assistant Director in design from the Weavers Service Centre, Bhubaneswar in 1975 joined, the Weaver's Service Centre as a designer and later promoted to the status of its Deputy Director.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Given an opportunity or had he devoted more time to creative painting he would have surpassed many of his contemporaries in India which can be judged from his few abstract landscape paintings executed during the later part of his life in Bhubaneswar when he retired and settled in Odisha. Dr. Muralidhar Tali is a superb colorist and an astute portrait painter in the Calcutta academic style. His still life studies and portraits are unique for their dramatic renaissance type light and shade effects with focus on highlights painted in impasto techniques.

His portraits of his mother, wife and his self portraits are a few marvelous pieces only could be comparable with Bipin Bihari Chaudhury's early oil paintings, especially his student works in the London Royal College of Arts. Dr. Muralidhar Tali who got an honorary Doctorate degree from Sambalpur University for his contributions to portrait paintings was also a competent textile designer and Printmaker of consummate skill. Some of his woodprints which he did as a student in the Calcutta School of Art could stand the test of time as precursor of the graphic art movement in Odisha.

He had always fostered a keen interest to teach a group of students in oil painting and in the 1970s in cooperation with Bibhuti Kanungo and Asit Mukherjee started an art school in Mohammedia Bazar, Cuttack which however was nonofficially merged with the B.K. college of Art and Crafts, Bhubaneswar in 1984. It would be more authentic to say that his art college was a prelude to the college at Bhubaneswar without any interlinks.

Dr. Muralidhar Tali was equally proficient in water colour studies. Again his self portrait with the projection of highlights difficult to capture in water colour applications speak of his master over brush control. Dr. Muralidhar Tali was so confident of his abilities as a portrait painter that he had composed imaginary portraits of Jayadev the author of '*Gitagovinda*', Sarala Das the author of Odia '*Mahabharata*' and *Bhima Bhoi*, a nineteenth century Kondh poet giving them a kind of photo realism and social identity which Odias are fond of.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Muralidhar Tali's art was so lively and natural, it was understood

that he was highly influenced in the nature. The art drawn by him was so natural that by seeing, the viewers were delighted with say and feel satisfied and his prints were too high standards with high values of life. During his time there was no much scope and privilege in Odisha to develop graphic work the contemporary artists of his time, other completing art education were not capable of doing anything with print making. But Dr. Muralidhar Tali was a legendary man and artist of his time, contributions in the field of art and Printmaking.

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