

From Kolkata, With A Creative Eye



PHOTOS: RAJ K. RAJ

So, most of the evening, we saw the 51-year-old "self-taught" watercolourist wait patiently for the select gathering of family (his wife, Sita, played the perfect hostess) and friends to turn into a crowd of art admirers. Since part of the proceeds of the show will go to Action For Autism (an NGO run by the artist's long-time friend, Merry Barua, who was present at the opening), we sincerely hoped the exhibition would attract more visitors in the next three days when it was on. Not that the absence of the usual faces

Dressed in a short black dress, she arrived, in fact, before time and cut the ribbon with only the artist and his family present to witness the event.

And although Lady Young was expected to move out early, she was so obviously enamoured of the paintings (in watercolour and mixed media) that she promised to come back with her husband, who was in Mumbai to inaugurate an HSBC event.

"I especially like the one showing the Kolkata's Hastings Canal," she said, adding that such fine work could only be produced on imported paper. Mukerji, of course, was delighted with all this attention and proceeded to inform us that he had completed some of the paintings – a remarkable reproduction of Safdarjung's Tomb, for instance – in barely half-an-hour. In fact, the painter's work expresses both the splendour of urban life

Christine E. Rai of Indian Inc. with the two paintings she chose to buy the moment she saw them

POONAM GOEL

If only Kolkata's Swaroop Mukerji had known that Delhi's art fraternity had mastered the fine art of media management, he would have played up the fact that Catherine Young (UK High Commissioner Rob Young's painter-wife) was inaugurating his maiden art outing in the Capital. Maybe then, he could have got the turnout his paintings deserved at the opening of his show at ITC Mauraya Sheraton on Tuesday evening.

one sees at such openings was missed by those present, including Lady Young.

Sita Mukerji (far left) and Merry Barua of Action For Autism kept everyone's cup of tea topped up

