

TAMIL NADU

Capturing Christmas spirit on canvas



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Art-cum-sales exhibition at Leader's Choice Gallery

Interesting perspectives and unusual colours come to the fore at the ongoing Christian art exhibition-cum-sale being held at Leader's Choice Gallery.

Featuring the work of Hermon Carduz, and inaugurated on Friday by Father James Selvanathan, the three display spaces in the Thillai Nagar gallery have nearly 60 paintings on Christian themes in keeping with the spirit of the festival season. "Most of these paintings are inspired by verses from the Bible," Mr.Carduz told *The Hindu* .

The artist, who also multitasks as a teacher of architectural drawing, French, Latin salsa and guitar music, besides being a soft skills trainer in colleges, has been working on the expo for

the past four months, sometimes for as many as 10 hours every day.

The result is an impressive mix of styles and depictions of traditional themes from a new angle. 'Jesus Praying in the Garden of Gethsamane', for instance, gets an abstract makeover with a bent profile of the agonised prophet drenched in a blend of greens, ochre, and blues that invites a second look. The crucifix is a leitmotif in the artwork, with an imagination of how the picture may have looked from an aerial view.

Another painting focuses on the nailed foot of the prophet, with myriad shades of red and maroon highlighting the blood of Jesus. "I prefer to work with acrylic paints on canvas," Mr.Carduz said.

Another visually arresting display is a set of stencilled paintings of Jesus Christ executed in a pop-art style that recall Andy Warhol's silk-screen diptych of Marilyn Monroe's publicity portrait.

While a few signature pieces are displayed as triptychs, Mr.Carduz said buyers could not be expected to purchase them in the same form, as "art is a luxury for most people in Tiruchi."

Paintings at the show start from Rs.475 and go up to an 'investment art' price of Rs.4,000 and above.

The 10-day show is on until January 4, 2015.



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