

Frozen in time



Artist **SUMAN GUPTA**, whose paintings are a rage with the movers and shakers, is back in the city with another collection, says **CHHAYA TOSHNIWAL**

From being a law graduate from Jammu, to helping in the family business, to being a self-taught freelance artist, 45-year-old artist Suman Gupta has been there and done that. This middle-aged artist resides in Jammu even now

but his works have been bought by the who's who of tinseltown through exhibitions he has held in Mumbai and in New Delhi. From Jaya Bachchan, who bought two of his paintings in his first-ever one-man show in Mumbai in 1991, to Tina Am-

bani, Marshniel Gavaskar (wife of Sunil Gavaskar), the Munjal family who started the Hero Honda company, Farooq Abdullah (former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir) to actor Raveena Tandon — all of them own at least one painting that has been created by him.

And now the maestro, who paints real-life people in his surroundings in Jammu, is back in the city with his new collection called *Filigree Of Frozen Moments* where he has repeated the same fig-

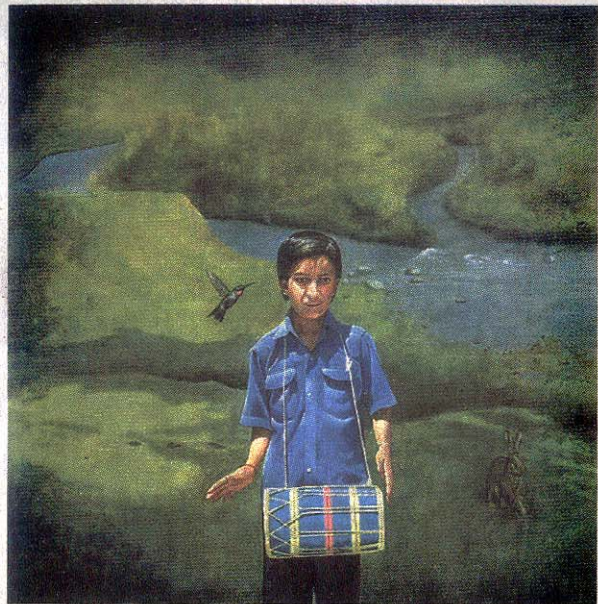
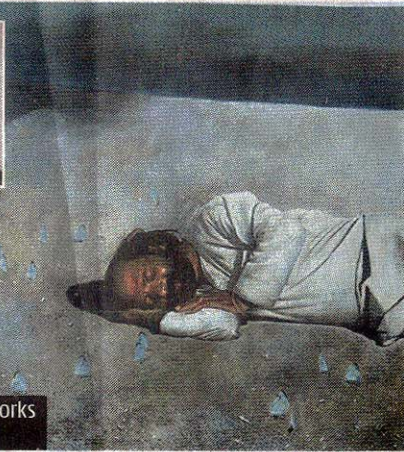
.event of the day.

ures that he has used in his earlier paintings and exhibitions. Though he is more of an introvert, happy with a few good friends in his life, Suman says, "I'm a very emotional person. For me, it's very important to spend time with my subjects and get to know them. I get emotionally connected to them and that's why I have the same people modelling for me since the past 10-15 years."

One look at the artist's work and you can't miss the detailing in his paintings



Suman Gupta's art works and (inset) the artist



and the hyper-realistic images that look like they have been cut out of a photograph. In the 12 paintings in his current collection that he is showcasing at Jehangir Art Gallery from February 11 to 17, the artist has used water colours and acrylics. He is also one of the few 'egg tempera' artists in India who is keeping this classic technique alive through his artwork.

He reveals, "So far, the only painting I made of my father was through this primitive medium form of art. And this was bought by Mrs Bachchan. I'm yet to paint another painting of him." That apart, he has also painted a portrait of his mother. But seems like it's not for sale. He says, "That painting is only for my personal collection."

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