

20th century city artist's work comes to life in SUK's art gallery

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Kolhapur: Shivaji University, Kolhapur (SUK), while keeping in step with the latest technologies, is also becoming equally solicitous about the past. After yesterday's decision to bring in 4G wifi network to the campus, SUK inaugurated an art gallery dedicated to the well-known master painter Abalal Rahiman on Tuesday. University officials are hoping that while enriching the campus, it will also provide a valuable platform for the artists at the city-based Rangabahar organization.

Abalal Rahiman, according to the officials, had made over 20,000 paintings in the

era of 1890 to 1931, and was appreciated by the Chhatrapati Shahu maharaj.

The idea was the brainchild of SUK vice-chancellor DB Shinde, who realised the beauty of Rahiman's paintings on a visit to Mumbai. He said, "A few days ago I got a chance to witness Rahiman's work at the Sir J J Art Gallery in Mumbai, when I realised the true potential of Rahiman's work. I had been completely unaware of such a legendary painter."

"Rahiman had depth in his paintings, which depicted the details in the physical sciences, social and economic status of his time and we should not forget that



Chhatrapati Shahu maharaj was the one to identify the true potential of his skills and encourage it," he added.

Who was Abalal Rahiman?

According to historians, Abalal Rahiman was born in 1860 in Kolhapur. He had joined the Sir J J school of Arts in Mumbai for enhancing his skills and his work was much admired by Rajarshi Shahu maharaj. He had made over 20,000 paintings. He died in 1931.

“Rajarshi Shahu maharaj had a special place for Rahiman and it was his encouragement that resulted in over 20,000 paintings by a single painter. The sadness he felt after the death of Raja-shi Shahu maharaj made him throw several paintings in the river Panchganga

Shyamkant Jadhav VETERAN PAINTER

Veteran historian Jaysingrao Pawar, during the event, said, "History is not just a collection of information of battles, or the information of royal families, and how many treaties were signed. It is much more than that. We study and try to keep track of the geographi-

cal, social, cultural, and political events, and we are planning to create one study on Kolhapur's cultural and artistic history soon."

He added that such a study will involve work of Abalal Rahiman, Baburao Painter and many other important artists and personalities.

On the newly inaugurated art gallery of Rahiman, Pawar said that this gallery will work as an inspiration for future artists.

Throwing light on Rahiman, veteran Painter Shyamkant Jadhav in his speech said, "Rajarshi Shahu maharaj had a special place for Rahiman and it was his encouragement that

resulted in over 20,000 paintings by only a single painter. In a way he has created and achieved which an entire generation cannot achieve."

He added that the sadness on the death of Rajarshi Shahu maharaj made him throw almost two boats of paintings in river Panchganga.

Apart from the works of Rahiman, Rangabahar has donated nearly 150 paintings of the members associated with them from their collection to the university's art gallery, out of which currently 56 paintings have been put on display at the extended version of the main library.