

Pioneer

Foreign strokes paint India

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Clip: 1 of 1

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The works of three British artists not only portray their love for India but also provide a glimpse into its rural culture, says Ekatmata Sharma

Exquisite blue temples constructed on the *ghats* of Pushkar with holy men thronging its *ghats* can make one stare in admiration of British artist James Horton's abilities. No marks for guessing Horton is in love with Indian culture. Likewise, his countryman artist Nick Tidnam seems to be fascinated by Indian traditions as he extensively highlights his culture in his works. Horton and Tidnam's works are part of a group exhibition of three British artists, titled *Troika*, in the Capital.

The third artist, Graham Clark, has chosen a different path. He prefers to portray English rural life and an Englishman's view of Europe. The commonality among the three is their source of inspiration — life around them.

The streets of Kolkata are extensively visible in Tidnam's paintings. His work, *Morning Shoppers*, illustrates the life of the locals engaged in selling and buying items of daily use. The depiction in pastel colours with acrylic on paper evokes the vibrancy of an Indian *bazaar*. His other work, *Early Morning Bathers*, shows people taking a dip at one of the holy *ghats* while *Street Band* captures a marriage band on the streets of Kolkata.

"India is a country of festivals, colours, power and people. There is a lot of spirit and life in its people. I like to bring this life on the canvas," says



Street Band by Nick Tidnam



Holy Ghats, Pushkar by James Horton

Tidnam.

He has also brought out some colourful creations of gardens, in his collages, *Garden Form I* and *Garden Form II*.

Horton's creations are depicted in a subtle tone using pastel and earthy colours in varied shades. He focuses on the rural life of India with works like *Water Buffalo at Poshina, Gujarat*; *Girls Washing Clothes-Poshina, Gujarat* and *Palaces of Jaipur*. He also highlights glimpses of rural Italy in his painting, *The Rufina, Tuscany, Italy*, which has vast green landscapes spread out in acres



Field by Graham Clark

of land.

"My paintings are not a source of imagination but that of reality. I capture the atmosphere of the place wherever I travel. The Indian works are done with a hint of English impression. I am fascinated by the Indian culture and therefore, I like to paint the wider picture of this civilised society," says Horton. Clark loves to paint

his country and depicts his affection for England through his paintings. The old lanes and hedges are part of his works. He brings his own unique brand of humour to his interpretation of past and present through the eyes of the common man. The hand-coloured prints and the etchings have brought out in *All in Good Time* and *Village School*.

The exhibition continues till October 27.