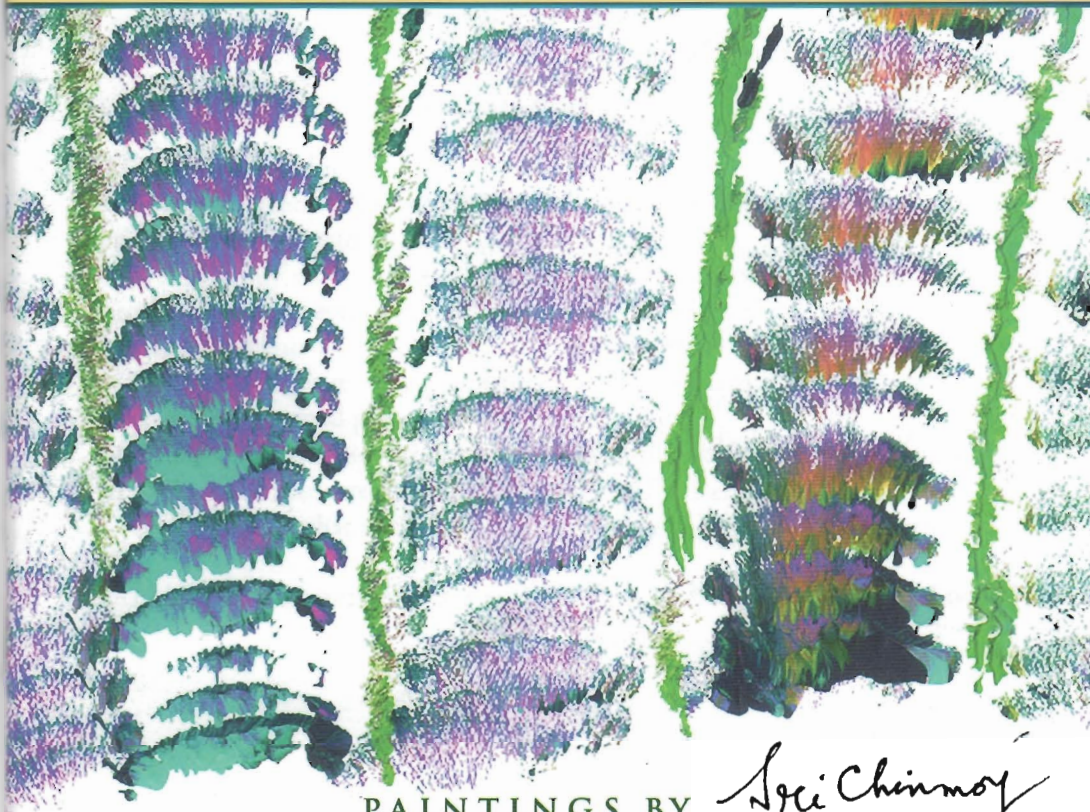


# Paintings for World-Harmony



PAINTINGS BY

*Sri Chinmoy*

# **The “Paintings for World-Harmony Exhibition” at the United Nations**

An exhibition of Paintings for World-Harmony and World Peace by artist Sri Chinmoy,  
dedicated to a CULTURE OF PEACE,  
as expressed through the arts

## **Curatorial notes**

These “Paintings for World-Harmony,” these “Paintings for Peace,” are by artist Sri Chinmoy. His signature “CKG” Peace-Birds have been an artist’s endorsement of world peace for decades.

Sri Chinmoy’s art embodies the messages of world peace, harmony, brotherhood, protection of nature, compassion, benevolence, non-violence and an aspiration for a more concerned humanity.

In using this genre to help culture peace in the self and in the world, Sri Chinmoy created paintings with an inspiring dedication, surely in hopes of kindling an awareness and strengthening a progress toward that concern in fellow world citizens.

In that sense, what better way for the exhibit to have begun its journey than at the United Nations.

In hopes that you may better enjoy this art, I submit these curatorial notes.

Ranjana K. Ghose  
Jharna-Kala Art Foundation

## The Art

In the “Paintings for World-Harmony, Paintings for Peace” Exhibition we see the Sri Chinmoy works are artistically cohesive as a show. The varying intensities of each piece translate into a dynamic non-violence and populations of radiant colours co-exist in a glowing tolerance of each other, a microcosm of an ideal humanity. In so many of the works as in “heart-garden” and “nature’s beauty”, “delight” and “benevolence”, we see use of colours which spontaneously energize us with the more positive qualities of life.

## The History of Exhibit

The paintings selected for this show were completed in two major painting sessions; the first 42 paintings were done in an outdoor garden setting on 14 August 2001. The remainder of the series, paintings 43 through 70, were painted later that same year, in November of 2001, in an indoor temporary studio setup. The exhibition is extracted from the entire series of 70 paintings which Sri Chinmoy had consciously dedicated to peace, on the occasion of his own completion of 70 years on earth in 2001. And this is their historical reference.

The medium is one of the artist’s favourites, i.e. acrylic paint. He employs this on a “Strathmore” paper, 25.5” x 19”, deckle-edged on two sides. The implements are fan brushes, sea sponges, hand-made cotton swab sticks and natural bristle, bamboo brushes. Each painting has a literal message inscribed upon it in pantone marker and each message is embellished with Sri Chinmoy’s well-known peace-bird drawings.

By the titles, we can sense that the art of Sri Chinmoy reflects ideals that are deeply rooted within himself. His art paints the picture of a world of peace and of harmony.

Measurements cited in this publication are listed w” x h”, consistently.

One can see that the Paintings for World-Harmony Exhibits are an attempt to bring art out of the museums and to the public, so that it may affect the public, thus helping to cultivate a climate of peace. We know so well that due to the hurried pace of today's lifestyle, many do not frequent the museums and places of fine culture as often as they might wish. Yet the culturing of our finer selves is something which we value greatly, and rightly so. In the "Paintings for World-Harmony" exhibitions, we attempt to nurture this need for higher culture in ourselves and others by bringing art and the higher values of civilization into varied and diverse venues.

### **Why Peace through Art?**

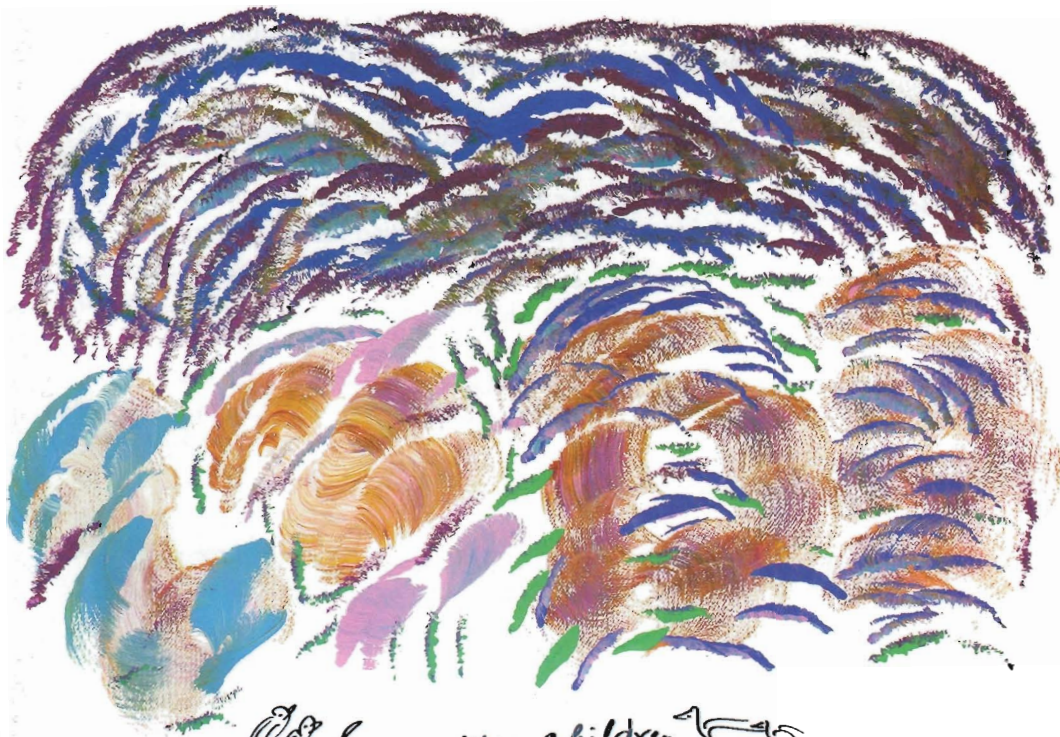
What greater and more appropriate role could art play! Art itself, like humanity, thrives best in a climate of peace. And art, like humanity, and like children of humanity, perishes as a result of war and intolerance. As art is a child of our heart that must be nurtured, nourished and cared for, the child of humanity must also be nurtured and cared for as a child of our own heart.

The world is crying to each one of us for help and surely when we help the world, we most certainly help ourselves, for are we not the world, we, all united as brothers and sisters of humanity?

May no society be tempted to rewrite history after tragedy, but rather to redress and to record faithfully a more rightful today, of a more illumined society.

These paintings are as though an affirmation of faith in our own humanity and a striving to help humanity as a whole, by discovering and educating ourselves and others in whatever humble way possible, be it as a mere reminder in the middle of a stressful day or a profound epiphany at twilight, that we are all members of a humanity struggling together to come into harmony with each other, so that we might all progress into that ultimate state of peace, here on earth, in which all beings may rightly thrive.





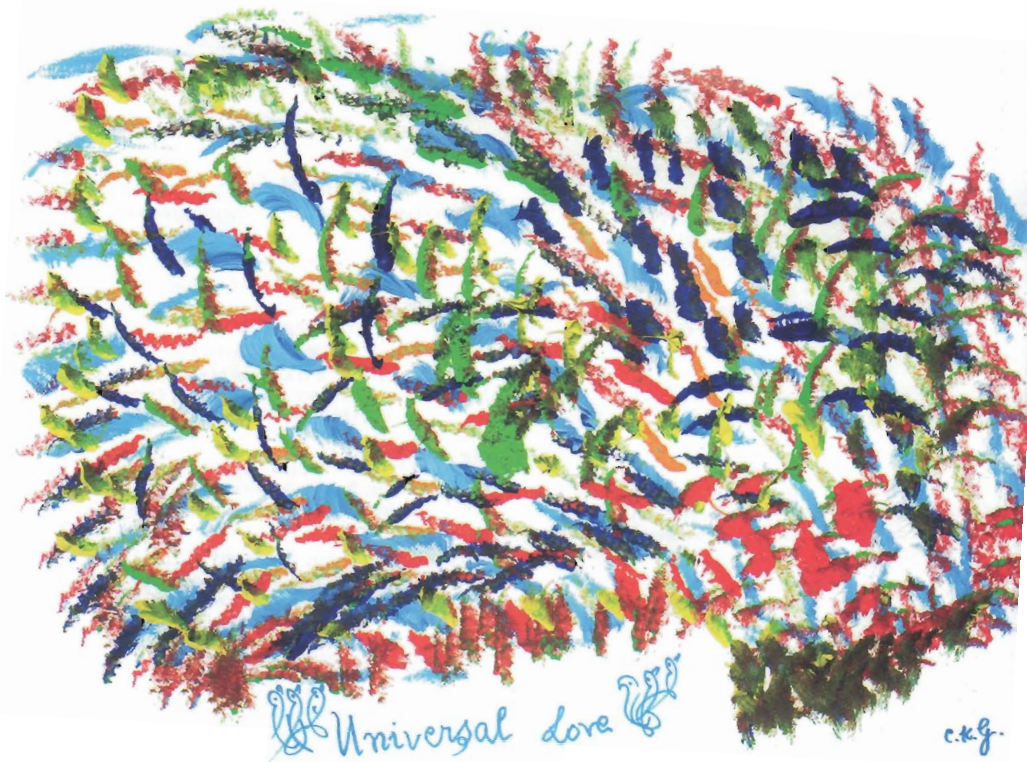
*Love the children*

c.k.g.

"Love the children" by artist Sri Chinmoy, painting size 25.5" x 19", acrylic on Strahmore® paper, November 2001, self-titled, Collection of The Jharna-Kala Art Foundation.



"Universal Brotherhood" by artist Sri Chinmoy, painting size 25.5" x 19", acrylic on Strathmore® paper, November 2001, self-titled, Collection of The Jharna-Kala Art Foundation.



"Universal Love" by artist Sri Chinmoy, painting size 25.5" x 19", acrylic on Strathmore® paper, 14 August 2001, self-titled, Collection of The Jharna-Kala Art Foundation.



**A few excerpts from many inspiring  
messages offered in support of  
“Paintings for World-Harmony” Exhibit by Sri Chinmoy**

**Inaugural Exhibit, 11-22 August 2008, United Nations, New York**

“I warmly welcome guests of Sri Chinmoy’s ‘World-Harmony Art’ gallery. I personally knew this wonderful, unique man. I remember my meetings with him. His soul was full of aspiration for promoting peace and goodness. He was able to do so much through his multiple initiatives and projects, through his art, his words....

Sri Chinmoy was a zealous supporter of the United Nations. He believed in the capacity of the UN; he tried to inspire people who work in this worldwide organization. Therefore, it is remarkable that this gallery is taking place especially at the UN.

My best wishes to all those who appreciate the art of this artist.”

**President Mikhail Gorbachev**

President, Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics (1985-1991)

Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize (1990)

“We are a single humanity. We must work together, united as one, to build a world of justice and harmony for all. Within each of us lies the power to build a world where we respect each other’s beliefs, understand each other’s culture and support each other’s values — a world where hatred, pain and suffering have no place.

This is the great cause of world peace to which my dear friend Sri Chinmoy devoted his life and to which his Paintings for World Harmony at the United Nations are dedicated.”

**President Nelson Mandela**

President of South Africa (1994-1999)  
Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize (1993)



“We are each a pool of love, compassion and serenity. Let the ripples from this pool reach to the end of the world. This is what my dear friend Sri Chinmoy did, throughout his life, for all of God’s children. God is smiling to know the immense good he has accomplished while working tirelessly to unite us as children of one Father.”

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town  
Chair, Truth and Reconciliation Commission  
Nobel Peace Laureate (1984)

“Realizing world harmony is the mission for which the United Nations was created. As peoples and nations strive to attain that goal, we are fortunate to find in Sri Chinmoy’s paintings for World Harmony, as well as in the legacy of his life’s work, a continuous source of vision, peacefulness and inspiration.”

**H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim**

President of the sixty-second session of  
the United Nations General Assembly

“Harmony is the most elusive of world goals, but one that can change history. With it, the UN works; without it, the UN often does not.”

**The Rt. Honourable Lord  
Mark Malloch Brown, KCMG, PC**

Minister of State, United Kingdom  
(2007-2009)  
Deputy Secretary-General,  
United Nations (2006)

“I wish you all great success in this latest endeavour which Sri Chinmoy has inspired, the Paintings for World Harmony at the United Nations. May the brilliant colours which mix together so freely and the flying birds which soar together so happily in his art work remind us that we human beings are one family on a common journey towards the peace and happiness of humanity.”

**Professor Ibrahim Gambari**

Under-Secretary-General and  
Special Adviser, United Nations

“As a true Global Ambassador of Peace, Sri Chinmoy’s vision of a oneness-world of peace and harmony, within each individual and for humanity at large, continues to be most enriching and empowering for all.”

**H. E. Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury**

Under-Secretary-General  
and High Representative  
of the United Nations (2002-2007)  
Ambassador of Bangladesh (ret.)

“I am delighted to know that Sri Chinmoy’s paintings are being exhibited at the UN. Sri Chinmoy himself was an embodiment of peace and harmony and it is a fitting tribute to such a realised soul.

World harmony is essential in the twenty-first century. It can happen only through sympathetic understanding of each other’s needs and mutual respect.”

**Dr. L. Subramaniam**

Past-master of violin, composer, arranger  
India’s Padma Bushan Laureate  
Recipient India’s Padma Shri Award

“In spite of his many outstanding achievements, Sri Chinmoy was a simple man who irradiated love and a palpable feeling of serenity. His luminous life was inspirational for all those who came into contact with him. He was an accomplished and prolific artist who spoke eloquently of the universality of man through his chosen medium of paint.

His work will stand the test of time.”

**Balraj Khanna**

Acclaimed Indian artist

“Beauty and the transcendent joy of art — music and poetry, painting and film, dance and drama, sculpture and architecture — are inseparable partners in our search for peace and world harmony.

The life and art of Sri Chinmoy are a rare gift to us all.”

**The Very Reverend James Park Morton**

Founder, the Interfaith Center of New York  
Dean Emeritus, Cathedral of  
St. John the Divine



"Shanti" by artist Sri Chinmoy, painting size 25.5" x 19", acrylic on Strathmore® paper, 14 August 2001, self-titled, Collection of The Jharna-Kala Art Foundation.

## The Art of Sri Chinmoy

Sri Chinmoy refers to his art as “Jharna-Kala”, which means “Fountain-Art”. He has well been known for his unusual use of personally crafted sponges and painting implements in his painted works, exhibiting a feathery type of boldness of stroke and form, which seems to fan a brilliance of energy into the paintings. The intuitive combinations of colours in these abstract, acrylic paintings, are noticeably harmonizing in an almost healing way. The abundance of colour and the sweeping movement of images are as if a massage to the visual senses.

Sri Chinmoy uses a varied range of media in his art with the frequent use of watercolours or gouache on “Arches” watercolour paper, or acrylic paints on “Strathmore” watercolour paper; sometimes inks on handmade Thai, petal-inclusion papers, or even on African wildflower inclusion papers. He sometimes painted on Japanese papers and boards of varying types and for a time he used Chinese brush and ink on Chinese handmade papers. But more often we find that he has used marker to produce those ever joyful, Zen-like line drawings of birds, which are such a notable and recurrent element in his works. His hand seemed to know the tool well. The bird was a metaphoric element readily recurrent in Sri Chinmoy’s works, and bearing a plethora of mythological references, drawn from the lore of so very many cultures and heritages, both past and present.

Sri Chinmoy’s artwork exhibits mastery, a capacity to communicate to the viewer, through the colours used, the techniques employed, and very obviously, the originality of his style. He does not find the necessity to identify with a particular school of art, nor to un-identify with



any mode either, as his art is expressed rather spontaneously, without lengthy deliberations of the mind. His artwork is unpretentious and does not depend on rude impacts in order to affect others. Rather, Sri Chinmoy uses the language of art to express what comes from within, and one might observe that he utilizes that language eloquently to convey his work's essence to others.

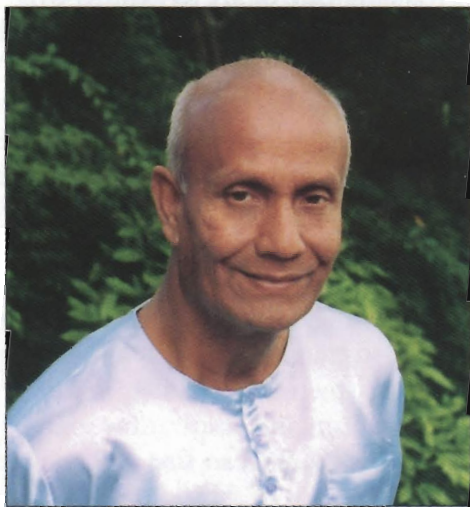
In his paintings, Sri Chinmoy lets his art flow from his heart, in a pouring forth of creative energy. He expresses sentiments of harmony, oneness and childlike joy. His art, abundant in the creative force, is ever effecting new inspiration, an inspiration for *The Journey*. He says, "My soul is a bird of fire winging the Infinite."

To be sure, the symbol of the bird figures prominently throughout his artistic expressions, being a metaphor for the aspiration of the Soul, or the Inner Self, to transcend itself, as it flies upward or expands outward into the skies of freedom and liberation. For much as the human life seeks the freedom and inspiration so inextricably essential to its very existence and evolution, so also the soul seeks its own Liberation, flying on the wings of aspiration.

And so we endeavour to draw light into our own lives, and at the same time, not to cast a shadow on another's existence.

May the soul-bird, within each one of us, fly to its own greatest heights.

Ranjana K. Ghose  
Jharna-Kala Foundation



Sri Chinmoy, the Artist  
Sri Chinmoy, the Humanitarian

## Biographical Note

Sri Chinmoy was born in Bengal, India in 1931. Upon coming to the West in 1964, he made his home in New York City.

Sri Chinmoy, having travelled the world extensively, had lectured at hundreds of universities, including Harvard, Cambridge, Princeton, Yale, Stanford, Columbia, Oxford, Tokyo and Brown, to name just a few.

Interwoven throughout the tapestry of his creative life has always been a profound appreciation and reverence for world-unity, be it expressed through his millions of soul-bird drawings or his analogies to the inspiration-bird throughout his poetry, prose and music.

During the course of his travels, Sri Chinmoy frequently offered free music concerts, himself performing on a number of musical instruments including esraj, flute, piano, harmonium and cello. These performances were almost exclusively utilizing his own musical compositions, he being a prolific composer. Sri Chinmoy's intention seems clear, it being none other than the hope of inspiring oneness and harmony in the world, believing that music can move people towards harmony, harmony with the self, harmony with others.

This theme is recurrent throughout all of his creative endeavours, be it through art, poetry, music, lecture, cultural performance, teaching meditation, sponsoring sporting events, or his many decades of dedication to the United Nations as a vehicle for harmony in the world. That theme is harmony, harmony within and harmony without. Harmony throughout a Oneness-World.



"Self-Transcendence" by artist Sri Chinmoy, painting size 25.5" x 19", acrylic on Strathmore® paper, 14 August 2001, self-titled, Collection of The Jharna-Kala Art Foundation.





"Serve Humanity" by artist Sri Chinmoy, painting size 25.5" x 19", acrylic on Strathmore® paper, November 2001, self-titled, Collection of The Jhama-Kala Art Foundation.

## Comments on the Art and Artist, from Previous Exhibitions

Sri Chinmoy's project is an eloquent testimony to the enlightened belief that visual art can powerfully affect our sympathies and understanding. **IVAN GASKELL**,  
*Curator of Paintings, Harvard /University Art Museums*

The beautiful exhibition released powerful and positive messages to all who viewed it. May your humanitarian deeds continue to inspire world peace and global harmony wherever you and your soul-birds travel.  
**RENEE PHILLIPS**, *Publisher and Editor-in-Chief, Manhattan Arts International Magazine*

I see in it (selecting a painting for her private collection) the colour of life, and the colour of hope. Green stands for life, blue for hope. And that is what I treasure in life. I am so happy to have spent these few precious moments with you.  
**RAISA MAXIMOVNA GORBACHEV**

The soul, like a dove of peace, longs for the divine. This flight of those who thirst for peace and for God is made tangible with all its high spiritual quality by these improvised and pure strokes, by these solar and

beautiful images of Sri Chinmoy... Let us join with Sri Chinmoy for the great flight!  
**PROFESSOR GABRIEL MANDEL**, *Professor of Art History, renowned Italian writer, painter*

How wonderful is Sri Chinmoy's achievement. By God's Blessing we can do everything, and Sri Chinmoy has achieved this by God's Blessing. **MOTHER TERESA**

What's here is an abundance of colour, abundance of images, abundance of the things that go through your mind when you meditate. **PAUL JENKINS**, *Artist*

I feel it is important that the 'art world' see, appreciate and discuss these paintings — though painted simply 'as a bird sings' to be enjoyed as bird song.  
**MICHAEL SHEPARD**, *Sunday Telegraph*

It contributes an entirely new dimension to the collection. The moment we saw it (a painting donated to the Museum's collection of Contemporary Indian Art) we immediately responded to its universal quality and vitality. **ROBERT SKELTON**,  
*former Keeper, Indian Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London*

He has a very childlike quality. He unfolds in his work and each work is a surprise for the eye and the mind. I am quite astonished to see such a vast body of work. He must be the most prolific artist in the world.

**BALRAJ KHANNA**, *Painter and writer*

You are a miraculous model of the abundance in the creative life. I can only hope that I may some day participate in that cosmic fountain of stillness and profound energy which you inhabit.

**LEONARD BERNSTEIN**, *Composer and conductor*

Sri Chinmoy's art has a playfulness which should not be mistaken for the trivial. It comes from an area of being where we strive for the highest. Very few artists dare to play in this way.

**AMAL GHOSH**, *Artist, lecturer, Central School of Art & Design, London*

The paintings are physical manifestations of his inner meditations, a reflection within the optical spectrum of what he perceives

inwardly as a real, living experience. They show a higher level of consciousness.

**T.J. BERGEN**, *Secretary, American Contemporary Artists Galleries*

The paintings are visual expressions of mystical experience—the perception of reality as a continuous, harmonious flow.

**ALAN SPENCE**, *Writer-in-Residence, Edinburgh University*

Sri Chinmoy translates the joy and freedom experienced in the meditative state into colour and form. **BRIAN GORMLEY**, *School of Visual Arts, New York*

I congratulate you on this wonderful achievement, which transports us men, who would be winged, to the birds, which we have tried to emulate.

**LORD YEHUDI MENUHIN**, *Renowned violinist*

In the swiftness of the stroke as in the song of the colour, it is the soul that speaks to us through Sri Chinmoy's works.

**FEDERICO MAYOR**, *Director General, UNESCO*

*Note: Titles accurate in reference to date of quotes*



"Peace feeds the Children" by artist Sri Chinmoy, painting size 25.5" x 19", acrylic on Strathmore® paper, November 2001, self-titled, Collection of The Jharna-Kala Art Foundation.





## **Reflections on World-Harmony and Peace by Sri Chinmoy, extracted from his published works**

“We all are needed to establish world-harmony.” <sup>1</sup>

“When we live in the heart, we feel that we all belong to one world-family.” <sup>1</sup>

“If we can live in our hearts, there will be peace within us and harmony in the world.” <sup>2</sup>

“Music is the mother tongue of humanity. It is through music that we can enter into the universal harmony.” <sup>3</sup>

“If you can create harmony in your own life, this harmony will enter into the vast world.” <sup>4</sup>

“... enter the portals of world-harmony-paradise.” <sup>1</sup>

“He who has neither bias nor prejudice is indeed a child of Heaven-harmony.” <sup>1</sup>



"AUM" by artist Sri Chinmoy, painting size 25.5" x 19", acrylic on Strathmore® paper, 14 August 2001, self-titled, Collection of The Jharna-Kala Art Foundation.

“Lack of harmony comes when I feel that I know how to do something better than you. Lack of harmony is the song and dance of superiority.” <sup>1</sup>

“Peace is the source, and from peace we get harmony.” <sup>5</sup>

“Harmony gives our minds tremendous inspiration to elevate the world.” <sup>6</sup>

“In the searching mind, harmony blooms.” <sup>6</sup>

“In the aspiring heart, harmony blossoms.” <sup>6</sup>

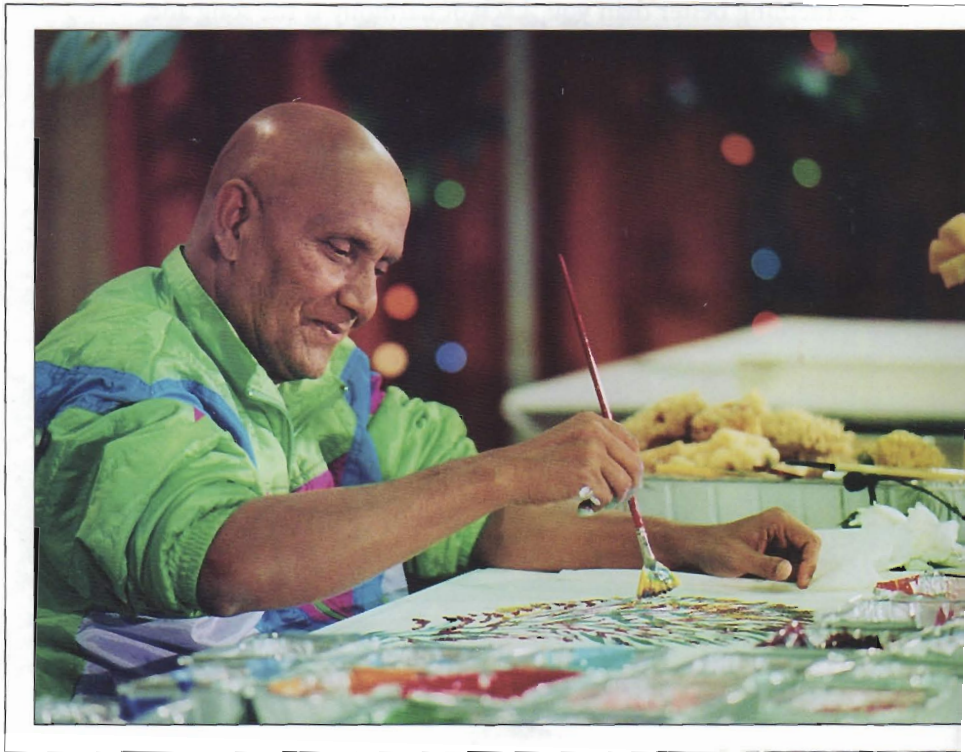
“World-harmony  
Carries the message  
Of world peace.” <sup>7</sup>

“Each good heart  
Champions the cause  
Of world-harmony.” <sup>8</sup>

“Harmony is the child of peace.” <sup>9</sup>

Footnotes/ bibliography

1. Sri Chinmoy Archives, Sri Chinmoy Headquarters, New York.
2. Remarks at the Dedication of the Mekong Delta as a Sri Chinmoy Peace Delta, 28 December, 1992.
3. The Source of Music, by Sri Chinmoy, Agni Press, 1995, 1999.
4. Published in book: Service-Trees, Vol.15, poem # 14,773, Agni Press, 1999.
5. Unpublished quote, Sri Chinmoy Archives, Sri Chinmoy Headquarters, New York.
6. From miniature book series: Little Books of Wisdom, volume: “Harmony,” Jharna-Kala Publishing, 2000.
7. Published in book: Service-Trees, Vol. 49, poem # 48,445, Agni Press 2006. (From Kuantan, Dec 2005)
8. Published in book: Service-Trees, Vol.18, poem # 17,765, Agni Press, 2000.
9. Remarks to local officials at World Harmony Run ceremony in Kuantan, Malaysia, New Years Day 2006.



Sri Chinmoy painting



Cover painting is a detail from: "Peace Feeds the Children" by artist Sri Chinmoy, painting size 25.5" x 19", acrylic on Strathmore® paper, November 2001, self-titled, Collection of The Jharna-Kala Art Foundation.

"The Paintings for World-Harmony, The Paintings for Peace," by Sri Chinmoy, exhibition booklet, authored by Ranjana Ghose published by Jharna-Kala Art Foundation, New York, 2012.

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# Paintings for World-Harmony

General Assembly Building  
United Nations Headquarters  
15-26 October 2012



PAINTINGS BY *Sri Chinmoy*



Non-Vidence

c.k.g.



# Paintings for World-Harmony Paintings for Peace by Sri Chinmoy

This exhibition is dedicated to a Culture of Peace and World-Harmony.

**Opening Reception: Monday, 15 October 2012, 6 p.m.**

Exhibition Dates: 15-26 October

We invite you to view these Paintings for World-Harmony. In this exhibit, we endeavour to enrich other's lives through the beauty of art and in so doing, to promote the ideals of peace, compassion, benevolence, non-violence, oneness and human understanding, which are so fundamentally necessary for humankind's peaceful co-existence.

“Peace blossoms in the heart of goodness.” - Sri Chinmoy

“Peace is precious. Peace is priceless.” - Sri Chinmoy

United Nations Headquarters  
Delegates Entrance to the General Assembly Building  
First Avenue and 46<sup>th</sup> Street, N.Y.C.  
RSVP(718) 291-0364 or email: [silvern@UN.org](mailto:silvern@UN.org)  
(for those without UN pass, please specify)

*Co-sponsored by:*

Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations  
*H.E. Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative*

Jharna-Kala Art Foundation, *Ranjana Ghose, Director*

Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations, *Nilima Silver, Secretary*