

# Kartik Trivedi

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He is from the Northwestern state of Gujarat, in India.

Trivedi: I was born in a small village called Lunsar on December 10th, 1937. As early as age five I began drawing. My father named Shri Laxmishanker Nanjibhai Trivedi, was the head school master and a fine water color painter. My mother named Sharada, was a folk singer. She taught me the fundamentals of folk and Raga music.

There was a very beautiful and fine lake nearby and a shrine called 'Shri Mataji Divine'. I used to sketch there for hours.

When I was six years old I entered a statewide art competition and won first place. My father got transferred from one place to another, and that in a way allowed me to learn different cultural aspects.

I was introduced to a harmonium when I was ten years old. It has the same keyboard as a piano but it sounds like an organ. So I was able to learn scales just like if it was a piano.

I came to America in 1967. I went to Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

When I was in India I used to play a flute. I learned how to play the sarod, an indian stringed instrument. When I was experimenting I found out that it is possible that someone can play the complete form of Raga music on the piano

I decided to study a masters degree in world music at the San Jose State University. At that time my main instrument was the piano.

I performed at Carnegie Recital Hall in New York City.

Trivedi: You may not believe this but when I gave a concert at The Lincoln Center, the New York Times printed my photograph on a music page.

My art is considered very impressionistic and beautiful.

When I was in high school in Gujarat, at that time I had the opportunity to see the books on French and American impressionism. From the very beginning I liked pastel colors and somehow the different sense of composition at the same time, the choppy brushstrokes. The colors were so fantastic and the analyses of sunlight and light in general. So I liked that and I immediately started working in an impressionist style.

When I came to America, I was stationed in Cleveland, Ohio and not too far away from my apartment there is a very great and famous museum, The

Cleveland Museum of Art, and that is where I saw the originals. Until 1967 I had never seen an original.

I used to lecture inside the museum for adult education. I would take a group of 10, 20, or 30 people and would take them from one gallery to another gallery. At that time I was studying to receive a MA degree in Art History from Case Western Reserve University. My first degree is in the area of Economics and Political history that I received from Gujarat State University.

I received a MFA, Master of Fine Arts in paintings from Kent, Ohio. At that time I was a very fine, a very good impressionist painter and I just continued to experiment in that particular style.

My style of painting is impressionist. But I also paint in a very native style, a very decorative Indian style of art. In 1960, while still living in India, I won a national recognition award.

I do paint portraits, but mostly I call myself a landscape painter. I love landscapes so much!

My friends from London, called me and they said that quite a few artists from all over the world have presented their paintings about the special occasion, the marriage of Lady Di and Prince Charles. And I wanted to do something and I found some photographs of the entire wedding procession, so I decided to do a special painting of the marriage procession. I received a very, very nice response, it was a great honor. Prince Charles' secretary wrote me a very fine personal letter saying that they all loved my work.

After that I did a special painting for late President of France François Mitterand and he liked my work very much and today as I understand, the painting has been sent to The National Cultural Heritage museum of France.

I understand that my paintings are also hanging in the house of late President Ronald Reagan and also with Bill Clinton, among many others.

I did a special painting for late President Ronald Reagan. The subject is called, "Welcome Home". When the 52 hostages came back from Iran, there was a very big procession. Another painting that I did is called "Spring Melody". The paintings had an impressionistic touch. A lady from California called me and told me that my paintings were put on display at the presidential library in California.

President Bill Clinton's painting was, "Autumn in Chicago". I think that event was also very well covered by CNN News.

I met him personally! There is a book written about me and it's called Kartik Trivedi, Contemporary Impressionist, that is the title. I presented him the book and we took a photograph and he was very kind, and he said, "I will carry the book", and so he was carrying the book with him. And he also wrote me a very nice thanks letter.

When the American Army came back from Iraq I presented a painting to President Bill Clinton and Lady Clinton. This painting is also at the Presidential Art Collection at the White House.

When I did my first painting for President Ronald Reagan, he was a very kind person to me and he used to write letters to me and I used to read, and you know the postman used to come all the way to the second floor of my apartment. He would knock on the door and say, "Mr. Trivedi, you open the door, I have something for you!" And I said, "Oh my god, I don't know what that could be." But he said, "Mr. President has written you a personal letter!" I would tell him, "I have a can of soda for you!" And he was always so happy to get a can of soda.