

June 1, 2009

For Immediate Release

Rangoli Foundation for Art & Culture

Artistic Director – Malathi Iyengar

malathisiyengar@gmail.com / 818 384 1954

The Dancing Ganesha & The Heroic Hanuman:

Unveiling of new works of art by sculptor Suresh Iyengar

Sunday, June 28 @ 6 pm following Rangoli Dance Company's Paintings of the Divine' at the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre in Hollywood.

Rangoli Foundation presents an occasion for the unveiling of sculptures depicting the popular Hindu deities Ganesha and Hanuman created by master sculptor Suresh Iyengar. The unveiling will take place on June 28, 2009 a 6 pm following the dance concert 'Paintings of the Divine' by Rangoli Dance Company.

Rangoli Foundation is celebrating the 2009-10 season as the 25th anniversary with a variety of initiatives to rejoice the numerous accomplishments of its visual and performing arts programs.

Rangoli Foundation commissioned the sculpture project as one of the several initiatives in connection with the much anticipated 25th Anniversary celebrations, slated for August 2010. The Ganesha and Hanuman project is supported in part by impresarios Dr Sumathi Nanguneri and Dr Kailash Swarna.



Information regarding the dance concert on June 28 can be found here:
<http://www.rangoli.org/pressrel/2009PODPresRelease.pdf>

The Artist

Suresh Iyengar born in Dharwar, India, is a prolific sculptor, painter, and a craftsman. Having been a visual artist since childhood, he has enhanced his skills by attending sculpture workshops in Pietra Santa, Italy, Cambria, and Los Angeles. His artistic works have been a part of several productions of Rangoli Foundation as well as other site-specific concerts, museums, events, installations, and weddings all over California. His sculptures and paintings are also part of a private collection. Suresh has received multiple nominations for outstanding achievement in set design by the 'Los Angeles based Lester

Horton Dance Award Committee'. He is a member of the Pasadena Society of Artists. He is the recipient of the 'Kannada Kala Bhushana Award ' by the Karnataka Cultural Association, Los Angeles in 1999. Suresh has been a contributing artist and sculptor in building the City of Burbank Rose Bowl Float since 2004.

Artist Statement

Ganesha and Hanuman, two of the most beloved deities of the Hindu Pantheon, have always fascinated me. I have drawn, painted, and sculpted Ganesha and other works of art on numerous occasions, and each time, it is a source of joy and an act of worship. Creating classical works of art and sculpting them is a humbling experience. The process inspires me to marvel at His creation and deeds.

I ask the viewers to observe the sculptures over time to understand and appreciate the craftsmanship. Both sculptures are freestanding and intended to be viewed from a continuously changing vantage point to observe how the form evolves. The interplay of light on and across the surfaces also accentuates forms and textures. I hope you will treasure these works of art just as much as I have enjoyed creating them.

Thank you. Suresh Iyengar.

Rangoli Foundation

Artistic director, Malathi Iyengar to realize a creative vision of presenting visual and performing arts of India, established Rangoli Foundation for Art & Culture, a non-profit organization in 1985. In India, the antiquity of the visual art Rangoli, symbolizes Beauty, Hope and Tradition. This symbolism has been an inspiration to name the company Rangoli. Rangoli Foundation has presented a wide variety of visual art exhibits, dance performances, festivals, music concerts, guest artists, residencies, master classes and staged several productions ever since its inception. Rangoli Foundation is committed to developing cultural awareness and inter-cultural dialogue through the artistic expressions of dance, music, theater and visual arts.

The Process

Suresh Iyengar crafted the original sculptures by using oil-based clay over a metal armature. It took Iyengar approximately 80 hours to make the two clay models. In order to create a prototype, the sculpture was given to a foundry / studio to get a production mold and casting made. The process then involved various steps including making a rubber mold, wax positive, ceramic shell, pouring the marble powder and resin, sand blasting, & finally applying the patina to achieve the desired color, shine, texture, and effects.

Specifications & Facts

Dancing Ganesha

In India, Lord Ganesha is worshipped as the God of wisdom and remover of all obstacles. Ganesha is invoked before the beginning of any major undertaking. Ganesha is four-armed, holding a tusk, goad, noose and sweets. The eldest son of Shiva and Parvathi, He is the God of wisdom and the remover of obstacles who inspires feelings of devotion and endearment. Ganesha is one of the most popular Gods in India who also has the ability to bestow good luck on new ventures, significant happenings, & journeys. Ganesha is known to be the scribe to Vyasa who authored the epic Mahabharatha. Ganesha rides on a mouse (Mooshika) as his vehicle. The Dancing Ganesha is engrossed in the joyful movement and resembles the classical Bharatanatyam dance style and form. His dance symbolizes exuberant activity and happiness.

Height – 10” inches including the Granite base.

Weight – 1.12 lbs

Material – Stone Casting with Marble and Resin

Handle With Care

Heroic Hanuman

Hanuman is a monkey (Vanara) deity known for his knowledge, agility, speed, and strength. Hanuman is renowned for his faithful service and single-minded devotion to Lord Rama, incarnation of Lord Vishnu. His mother is Anjana and father, the wind God Vayu. He therefore has the ability to fly. He is known for helping Rama find his beloved Sita and rescue her from the clutches of the evil Ravana. Hanuman is of divine origin and is the link between man and divinity. In the great epic Ramayana, Hanuman is depicted as a skilled negotiator and a shrewd diplomat. Hanuman spent his entire life in the service of Lord Rama.

Height - 9 ½ inches including Granite base.

Weight – 3.7 lbs

Material – Stone Casting with Marble and Resin

Handle With Care

Viewing & Purchasing the Limited Edition Sculptures

The sculptures are at the Rangoli Space in Sherman Oaks, California. You may schedule an appointment to see or purchase them. The film created by Michael Weaver also gives the viewer an opportunity to see the sculptures online.

To view the film on Ganesha & Hanuman visit

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_Q4m98wbu8

The limited edition sculptures are available for purchase and are sold on a first come basis.

Dancing Ganesha - \$365

Heroic Hanuman - \$485

Shipping, Handling, & Insurance costs not included. Please allow 4 – 6 weeks for delivery. No refunds or replacements. All sales are final. Donations are tax deductible.

Please make check payable to Rangoli Foundation and mail to:
14748 Morrison Street, Sherman Oaks, Ca 91403.

Include your phone number and E Mail information in case we need to contact you.

Contact:

Viewing & purchasing - Malathi Iyengar at 818 384 1954 / malathisiyengar@gmail.com / www.rangoli.org

Feedback & questions - Suresh Iyengar at iyengarsuresh43@gmail.com / www.sureshiyengar.com

The Facts

What:

The Dancing Ganesha & The Heroic Hanuman:
Unveiling of new works of art by Suresh Iyengar

Who:

Presenter – Rangoli Foundation for Art & Culture
Master Sculptor: Suresh Iyengar
Dance Concert – Rangoli Dance Company

When:

Sunday, June 28 @ 6pm following Rangoli Dance Company's dance concert 'Paintings of the Divine'

Where:

Barnsdall Gallery Theatre
4800 Hollywood Blvd
Hollywood, Ca 90027

How:

Box Office – www.BGTtix.com / 323 644 6272
Admission – Presale \$15 / Door \$20

Websites:

www.sureshiyengar.com
www.rangoli.org

Contact:

818 384 1954 / malathisiyengar@gmail.com