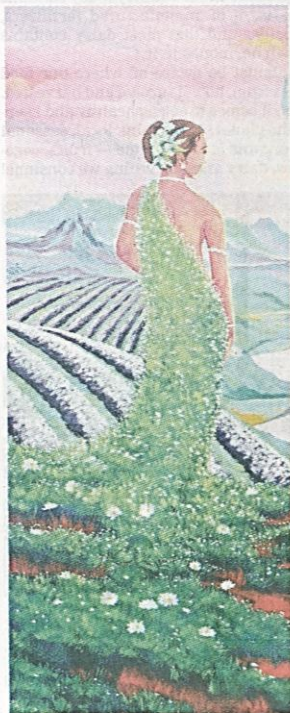


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# Art that will make you 'Never Say Die'

A painting exhibit by specially-abled artists is going on at Stella Maris College till December 5



● **Gokul M Nair**

**O**n the eve of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, a unique art exhibition was inaugurated at Stella Maris College featuring the works of specially-abled artists.

The exhibition, organised by the HEARTBEAT Foundation, features artist R Udayakumar, who is affected by Spinal Muscular Atrophy and paints using his right thumb and index finger alone; embroidery artist K Narasimhalu who despite being affected by cerebral palsy paints using his two feet; auditorily and orally challenged artist Suvedha Ganesh and Uttam Kumar from J&K who paints using his right foot.

The exhibition, titled Never Say Die, was declared open by Chief Guest R Natraj, Mylapore MLA. "I am glad to see that the foundation is promoting artistic ventures of specially-abled artists through the support of corporates and concerned individuals. As disability rights activist Haben Girma said disability will be seen as an asset in future society; it needs to be celebrated."

The exhibition is supported by L&T, along with Gallery Sree Parvathi, and Creative Zone. V



**Romani Agarwal**

S Ramana, founder director of HeARTBEAT Foundation, added, "The foundation was started as an initiative to help specially abled people utilise their creativity to support themselves; all the proceeds from their sales will go to the artists themselves."

The foundation had previously held a few art exhibitions featuring Udayakumar and Narasimhalu, and had managed to raise more than ₹8

lakh from previous sales.

After the inauguration, two short films on Udayakumar and Narasimhalu were also screened; they were produced by supporting partner Creative Zone. "Even before the launch, six works were sold; this is the wonderful response we've received," added Ramana.

*The exhibition is on at Stella Maris College till December 5*