

Tondup Dorjay-Future artist of Ladakh

Abdul Ghani Sheikh

Leh: Tibet Heritage Fund and Leh Old Town Initiative (LOTI) organised an opening of Art Exhibition in new form named as 'PEN AND INK' by a budding artist Tondup Dorjay, an 11th class student of Moravian Mission School, Leh from Igoo village. The exhibition was inaugurated by Tsering Angchuk, Executive Councilor, Health and Culture LAHDC, Leh. In his opening remarks Tsering Angchuk lauded the activities of Tibet Heritage Fund and Leh Old Town Initiative. The Chief Guest also viewed the on site work of the organisations and expressed his wish to initiate similar work in other regions of Ladakh as these places too have hidden wealth of heritage buildings, arts and monuments. He appreciated the performance of Tondup Dorjay in the field of art. Born in the village of Igoo, Dorjay remained there through the years of primary school. "I was brought to Leh at the age of 12, by my parents, and admitted into the Moravian Mission School. I cleared my school-leaving examination this summer. While at school, I was able to take part in several 'Art Competitions-Drawing, Poster-Making' and so on. The Principal, Rev. E.S. Gergan, arranged financial support for my schooling and was the first person to buy my works. I would like



to express my gratitude for his encouragement and support", he told Rangyul. He said that the maiden art exhibition would strengthen his bond with the art though has hooked to it in the childhood. "I have now begun to explore new form-'Pen and Ink' among the fellow artists. I intend to study art formally and become a professional artist", he declared. 'Pen and Ink' work does not need much in the way of materials, only skill. Also the landscape and architecture of

Ladakh respond well to this treatment. The dramatic beauty of this region is seen best in the way, its lines re-arrange themselves, revealing new angles and direction and points, with every change of perspective. This again, lends itself to 'Pen and Ink' studies. "I would like to thank LOTI, who have sustained me with summer jobs and given me this space-along with their support-for my first exhibition", he said.

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