

Dr. P.G. Keshavulu

Gold Leaf Painting Artist, Founder of Kalashree Artemple, Master Craftsperson in Gold Leaf and other Painting forms, Writer, Editor and Publisher.

Pannuru Guruswamy Keshavulu (Keshavulu) is an eminent artist with a wide range of expertise in various painting forms, most prominently in Gold Leaf painting. He was born in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, in an artisan's family on April 27, 1955. Hailing from a family that lays great emphasis on culture, Keshavulu continues Tanjore Painting as a family legacy even to this day. He learned Gold Leaf painting techniques and ancient fine art styles from his father, the late Shri. Pannuru Guru Swamy. His elder brother, the late Shri. Padmashri Punnuru Sripathi, served as a mentor to him and also taught him painting.

Passionate about painting since childhood, Keshavulu obtained a Diploma in Fine Arts from Chennai and also pursued an M.A. After his education, he managed the handmade Likitha Patrika news magazine in Chittoor from 1972 to 1974.

With wide-ranging interests in the field of art and literature and a burning desire to train and impart skills to students, he has actively sought to contribute to both the socio-economic and cultural development of India through his passion for the art. His dream is to enable people to transform their lives through art.

Dr. PG Keshavulu founded the Kalashree Artemple, a classical Art Academy in Hyderabad, in 2000. This academy trains students from a wide spectrum of society — students, housewives,

professionals, artists — with the commitment that Gold Leaf Painting will continue to be a prominent art form. Kalashree Artemple is also an art gallery where different painting forms are exhibited.

Before founding Kalashree Artemple, Keshavulu worked as a Chief Artist with magazines such as **Bommarillu, Vijaya, Neelima and Chandamama** (Freelancer), during 1975–1980. From 1980 to 1995, he worked as an Editor and Publisher with his own publications, **Jabilli** and **Harivillu** magazines.

With his relentless service in the field of Arts over the last 40 years, Keshavulu has trained more than 2,000 students in Gold Leaf painting, Oil painting, and Glass painting, and continues to train anyone with an interest in these areas. A special mention here is the training in Gold Leaf painting imparted by him to several students in Lepakshi, the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation.

In 2011-2012, Keshavulu trained 10 students under the '**Guru Shishya Parampara**' Scheme of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

An innovator, Keshavulu created a new art form – turmeric painting of symbolic positive energy art mudhras. In this connection, he has completed over **300 episodes** of '**Kalashree Trikalagnanam**' in the Telugu channel, Bhakthi TV, explaining art mudhras. He continues working on this program even today. The program was also telecast daily in Tamil and Kannada until recently.

To keep himself abreast of his work in the field of fine arts, Keshavulu has engaged in literary works such as writing Art Volumes, published by K.V.R. Publications, Chennai. On his own, he has trained about 600 students in the field of literature and drawing.

The excellence of Keshavulu's work has resulted in numerous awards. The most notable award he received was the **National Award in the field of Arts (Gold Leaf Painting)** from the **Government of India**, in 2012. The most recent award he received was the 2015 **Bharath Jyoti Award** from the India International Friendship Society, New Delhi. Other prominent awards include: **Doctor of Indigenous Arts** from the Academy of Universal Global Peace in 2014; the **Kala Shri award** from the Surajkand

Mela Authority in 2003; **State Award in Gold Leaf Painting** from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in 2000.