

# Ganga Aarti

**SUSHIL KUMAR**  
INDIA

Sushil is an artist from Jammu without the confines of a particular genre, painting whatever inspiration or mood dictates. Primarily working with brushes, he has also explored finger painting and palette knife techniques.

A passionate traveler, Sushil has driven across India, with these journeys often influencing his art.

Beyond creativity, Sushil dreams of developing a permaculture-based food forest—an experiential sanctuary for like-minded people.

Formerly a legal professional in a large MNC bank, Sushil is currently on a break to pursue farming interests.





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I love to travel and I love to paint. Over the years, I have tried to create paintings that have helped me to immortalize the memories from my trips. My travels have taken me to many beautiful places across this country and all those memories have a special place in my heart, but some trips turn out to be more memorable than others simply because of the people accompanying you.

## A JOURNEY LIKE NO OTHER

Back in 2018, we undertook a road trip to Haridwar, Rishikesh, Badrinath and Kedarnath in Uttarakhand where my parents also joined me for the very first time. It was a trip that was not easy to plan and execute. My mom's fragile health was a major consideration and some of the religious places that we were planning to visit were difficult to reach. It was simply a case of God's grace and my parents absolute devotion that we managed to complete this road trip and create memories that we so fondly talk about till date.

## HARIDWAR: THE FIRST STOP OF AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP

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## EXPERIENCING THE MAGIC OF GANGA AARTI

Ganga snan and Ganga aarti were the two rituals that were very high on the agenda of my parents. On the first evening of the trip, after bathing in icy cold waters of Ganga, we occupied a spot on the banks of Ganga and started waiting for the Aarti ritual to start. We were soon joined by a sea of devotees who occupied every available space on that ghat. As the sun was about to go down, the priests started singing the prayers with big lamps swaying in their hands and soon the entire atmosphere turned completely magical. It was indeed a blessing to see my parents joining the crowd singing the prayers and participate in that spectacle.

I wanted to paint that scene to etch in my memory the magic of that blissful evening. This painting is therefore rightly titled as 'Ganga Aarti'.

My approach for this one was simple. Just wanted to create a scene that immediately takes me to that evening, a sort of anchor to that memory. Two things that took the most time on this one are (i) getting the proportions of the priests relative to each other right and (ii) the lamp fire. Overall, it took a week to finish.