

Chandu Daftary

(b. September 13, 1927), having had a stint at his father's profession as an Ayurvedic physician and pharmacist, he chose to become a full-time artist. Self taught from the very beginning, he practiced and experimented in various media – oil and water colour, acrylic, engraving on slate and anodized aluminum sheet, portrait painting, line drawing, illustration and cartoon. Worked as an illustrator for two Mumbai-based leading Gujarati dailies for a number of years till he sought retirement at his native place Morbi at 70. His engraved portraits of national leaders of India and abroad are in the private collections of very important people and national archives of several countries. More than half of his small residence, including his modest studio, was destroyed in the earthquake on January 26, 2001. Continues to work at Morbi for his sustenance at the ripe age of 77 even now: holds at least one exhibition of his work in several media every year. Shy and introvert by nature, he is admired by many for his substantial work.