

# Roger Federer buys Superstar

## **The greatest artist in tennis appreciates local ‘superstar’.**

Tennis legend and winner of 16 grand slam titles, Roger Federer, obviously appreciates the work of locally-born artist Nadeem Chughtai, after he and his wife Mirka purchased one of Nadeem’s paintings entitled ‘Superstar’.

Towards the end of the second week of this year’s Wimbledon Tennis Championship, the famous tennis star walked into Canvas Art Gallery in Wimbledon Village SW19 and a crowd of fans immediately began to gather outside. Concerned staff asked the Swiss couple, who married two years ago, if they would like the gallery to be closed while they looked around but they politely declined.

Mirka, a former professional tennis player herself, spotted a large three foot by four foot oil painting entitled ‘Superstar’ and showed it to Roger. Staff later told the artist, aged 37, that ‘they both instantly loved it and went for it’.

Nadeem, from Worcester Park, Surrey, has been a professional artist since 2005 and rented his first studio just minutes from the grass courts of Wimbledon at Wimbledon Art Studios SW17.

He began selling his work after winning the New Artists Competition at the Birmingham NEC, after which he signed a deal with art publishers Washington Green and his career has progressed from there. His work now sells all over the world. Original paintings by the artist sell regularly in excess of £4000.

Nadeem says: “I asked the gallery if they said why they chose that painting and they said that his wife (Mirka) liked the simplicity and tranquility of it. She also liked the large empty space in the painting that allowed the viewer to fill in the gaps. Not to mention the fact that it is entitled ‘Superstar’, which may have seemed appropriate!

“It’s interesting that they bought this one in particular because I painted it to say to ‘Joe public’ that we are all superstars in our own right. But the fact that a true superstar – the greatest tennis player in history - bought my painting, and more importantly that he ‘got it’ is amazing. It completely makes sense as I imagine him to be a very modest person.”

Nadeem added: “I'm well chuffed that they chose one of my pieces to add to their art collection, which I am told will go up in their family home in Switzerland. I've always been a big fan of his work too!”

If you require any further information/quotes/photos etc please contact:

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