

Gifu Shimbun Newspaper 5/19/2007 Evening Edition

## **Chat on People**

Mr. Pakan Penn, (54), escaped war-torn Cambodia and established a painting career in Washington DC. Last year his friend took him to visit Yuki-cho (presently Miwa-cho), Tokushima, and fell in love with it. He has been painting this village ever since. "I can express the nature where people live peacefully together really from the heart in my painting."

While studying art at a university in Washington DC, his country fell in the hands of the dictator, Pol Pot. His family was all deported, his parents and six siblings were killed. He made a last minute decision not to return home. If he had gone home, he would have been killed. "It was a revelation from heaven that I must paint here in the US and show it to the world," he says.

His painting style of powerful colors and deep strokes, perhaps reflecting the intense sunshine in his home country engrained in his head, overwhelms the viewers. Since financial assistance from his family stopped, his painting activities did not resume until just six years ago. "Blossoming late in my life, my passion towards painting really shows, as if overflowing from my works."

(Kyodo)

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Painting the nature of Tokushima in hopes of peace

(text identical as above)