Natural palette - fascinating art!

The Department of Clinical Microbiology held its second annual 'Culture Art' competition this year. Culture Art is a type of art created using vividly coloured bacteria and fungi. Here, the growth or culture medium in a petri dish is the canvas and the microbes, the paint.

Of the 40 entries this year, the winning entry was 'The face of Jesus' designed by Mr. Mahil Peter (MBBS 2016 batch) using Corynebacterium xerosis microorganisms on the growth medium, Serum Tellurite agar. (View more images of culture art by our staff and students below)

Bacteria and fungi have the capability to form coloured growth under specified conditions in different culture media - solids, liquids or semi-solids designed for their cultivation and maintenance in laboratories.

The Department initiated the Culture Art competition in 2018 as part of its annual Christmas activities. Students and staff taking part in this competition express their views on culture, history, religion and so on through this type of artistry. The first competition witnessed a fascinating array of creations by 34 participants. Ms. Gayathri (Project Staff, Dept. of Clinical Microbiology) was the winner with an Arabic mehndi design she had created with Serratia marcescens bacteria using the Mueller- Hinton agar.