

Exhibition

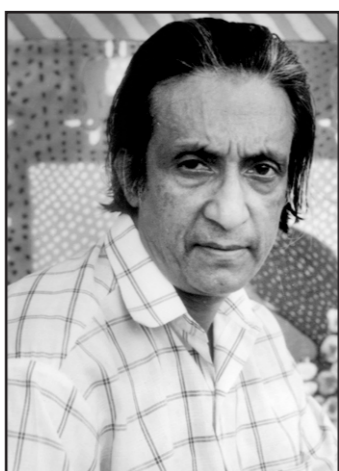
Myths and legends in paints

Abdus Shakoor's solo venture at "Shilpangan"

FAYZA HAQ

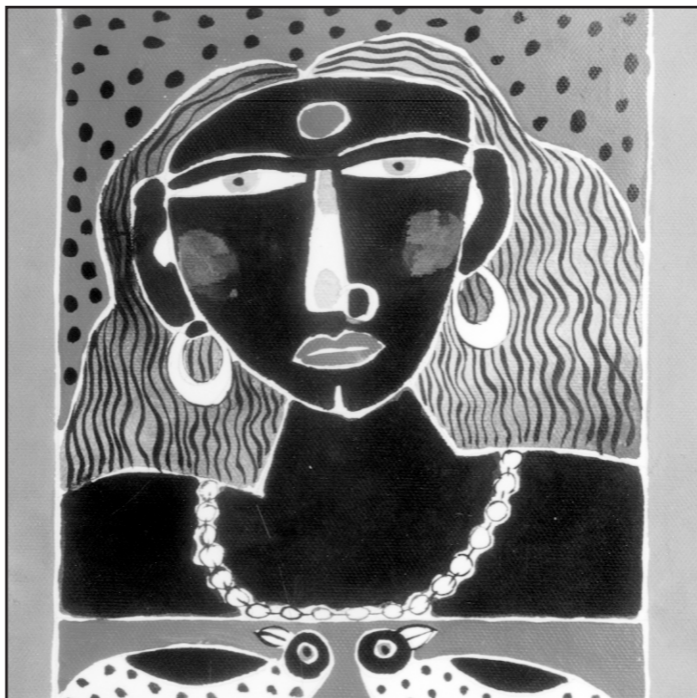
ABDUS Shakoor, whose exhibition of nostalgic paintings of myths and legends began at the "Shilpangan" recently, said, "An artist does not worry about whether his paintings will sell well or not. He is out to express his innermost feelings and inspirations as well as his environment in the way he best can. First of all, he will try to find joy in his work. The entire fine arts section holds a mirror to our society and within this one can represent the beauty and grandeur of a country in the best possible manner. When I first began to paint with the subjects of stories from the past, I came across Girish Chandra Sen's 'Mymensingh Gitika' which is taught at the Bangla Department everywhere in our country, and there reading to increase my knowledge and enjoy the treasure trove of romantic stories based on the past of the region, I felt I should stop my range of experimentation. I believed that I

Bangladesh. That is why I write some of the stories along with the painting so that the inscriptions become an integral part of the paintings. However, the paintings do not emanate from the writings. Thus the poems of Mymensingh such as 'Naderchand', 'Molua', 'Mohua', 'Chandraboti' and 'Rupoboti' and such characters enter my paintings. For instance, 'Mohua' was under the control of the gypsies and her connection with 'Naderchand' comes to such a head that she is driven to kill 'Naderchand' and such incidents which I have shortened and minimized in my works, I have in particular, brought in the faces of the protagonists of the stories and have used dark colours such as blue and black for delineating the faces of my heroines as village girls are different from their city counterparts and tend to have darker hues as they are more exposed to the sun and do not have as many facials as urban women do. Also, the darker hues adds drama and strength to the paintings, I believe. If you limit your colours in modern paintings, I am to understand, it appears more rich. Thus I have used dark hues to delineate both men and women in my works."



Abdus Shakoor

could paint in the manner of Quamrul Hassan, bringing in the beauty of our villages and our traditional Bengali art, influenced by Jamanini Roy. "This idea came to me in 1991 and to gather my materials I visited various museums such as the Gurusahdai Datta Museum in Kolkata, where I realized how rich was our traditional art in



"Mahua"

intertwining of lettering as one finds in formal calligraphy.

Elaborating on the content matter of his works, Shakoor said, that he concentrates on what he sees around him in his country and what he knows to be the cultural heritage of our people. I select what is necessary from the vast treasure of Bengali folklore. He wrote where it was necessary and left space where he felt it was adequate to do so for the sake of the composition. Similarly he brought in figures where he deemed it fit. When he draws his basic sketches, he does not ponder over what colours to put so that they flow freely from his memories, imagination and inspirations. He feels that I has the brushes and paints before him, and the hues and shades enter the paper automatically. As for the brightness of the choice of colours at items, Shakoor wishes to maintain the simplicity of child-like paintings though he does not follow the Naive School. The colours of the traditional painters tend to influence the choice of the selection of colours

-- they are bright to the point of raw at times.

Asked how this exhibit at "Shilpangan" was different from those he has held before, Shakoor said that he had included some drawings on pastel colours based on his visit to European countries, such as Denmark and England and they are even more simplified than his normal style. The subjects too varied as they brought in blonde young women and men with punk hairstyles. These are drawings on coloured paper where the drawing has been done with black lines. At times a few other hues were added to draw out the figures. It was Faiz Ahmed who insisted that these items should be included in the exhibit. Thus he has captured the west too in my most recent works.

Talking about whether he was surprised at receiving a prize at the most recent National Exhibition held by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, as they often tend to ignore the efforts of the older generation of painters who have been working consistently and

deserve as much recognition as the younger artists who tend to experiment, Shakoor said that he was not overwhelmed at all because he feels that if Shilpakala Academy does not encourage someone who has been experimenting and working steadily for decades, it would be a pity. The artist added that it is true that sometimes prizes at the national and international level, given by the Shilpakala Academy, do go suddenly and strangle enough to some young men who have made some outrageous experimentation and does not have years of persistent good work behind him/her. An artist's contribution towards the promotion of the culture of the country and his years of labour as well as his intrinsic excellence should be kept in mind before prizes of such importance are handed out, Shakoor believed. There are contributions of an artist as a teacher should also be considered and should carry weight, he said. "Sure," he added, "bold and unusual experimentation should also have its recognition."

Talking about the prizes that he had won earlier, Shakoor recounted the won three prizes in Japan, and two or three times from local authorities such as the Shilpakala Academy, "Bata International" etc. However he adds, that prizes and public acclaim do not make a painter. He himself has been experimenting in his own manner since 1976 and has been teaching since 1970 at a Sylhet Cadet college where he found the remuneration there well enough to carry on with his work and the indigenous people at Sylhet inspired him in his work. He has been working at the Fine Arts Institute, in the Crafts Department since 1980. It is from 1996 that he began the work on Mymensingh folklore that sets him apart from most other painters.

Asked if he felt that the mushrooming of the galleries in Dhaka is helping boost the sale of the average painters, Shakoor said, that this was definitely so as when he first graduated it was very difficult to sell one's painting and when it did sell it was for a very low price like Tk 200 in the 60s and early 70s. He

added that artists did not have enough money at that item to get adequate paints and brushes. "Today," Shakoor said, "even young painters can make a living somewhat with selling their paints quite often and do not necessarily have to resort to commercial work in addition, to get by. Only recently groups of exhibitions have gone to Paris, Norway and UK and this is surely promising for a better future for our artists. We have these facilities because we are a free country."

Dwelling on whether an artist can make a living by painting alone, Shakoor said that this is possible but an artist can never become rich with it, unless he goes overseas or is fortunate to have the backing of rich patrons. He himself teaches along with his work. He says that he teaches first, to survive, and then paints at his leisure time. He enjoys mixing with young artists and exchanging views and opinions. He believes that even if he can train up two artists well enough and they manage to establish themselves,

that itself is an achievement. Since Zainul Abedin, Shafiuddin and Qayum Chowdhury could combine their teaching with their own paintings I think that others like me can do the same too. He paints in a room in the University quarters; at first he makes a lot of drawings with pencil; next he applies paints in a group and then elaborates on each with time. He works for an hour in the morning before teaching and then at evening or at night, as his whim takes him, listening to folk songs at the same time. Shakoor adds the wordings later.

Talking and examining the paintings with their stress on folk motifs such as birds, elephants, horses, snakes, lizards, heads of legendary characters taken from myths and romances, and depicted with flat dramatic colours, with fascinating elaboration with motifs here and there, made one "high" with mental satisfaction.



"Tradition"

TV GUIDE

CHANNEL i

- 7.00 Prothom Sur
10.00 Music Plus
10.45 Drama Serial: Bashor Ghar
11.20 Close Up Juke Box
11.50 Drama Serial: Amader Gram
12.20 Drama Serial: Dola
1.35 Bengali Feature Film: Kalo Golap
Evening
5.00 i Sports
5.35 Jonopoder Khabar
6.10 Music Plus
6.50 Shushashon
7.15 Channel i News
7.45 Ispahani i Tele Quiz (Question)
7.55 Drama Serial: Durer Akash
8.25 Drama Serial: Grihogolpo
9.00 Channel i News
9.31 Ispahani i Tele Quiz (Result)
10.00 Drama Serial: Britter Baire
10.25 Channel i Mobile Quiz 2525
10.30 Channel i News
11.15 Shangkadpotre Bangladesh
11.30 Live Telecast of BTV's News
12.20 Channel i News

AXN

- 4:30 The Green Homet
4:30 Queen of Swords
5:30 Cold Squad Nancy
6:30 Movie: Marine
9:30 Alias Snowman
10:30 Cold Squad Nancy
11:30 Marital Law Nitro Man
12:30 Fear Factor
1:30 Alias Snowman
2:30 Movie: Marnie
5:30 Fear Factor
6:30 Marital Law Red Storm
7:30 Exploring the Unknown
8:30 VIP (Season IV)
9:30 Sunshine Girls
10:30 Movie: Blue Lagoon
1:30 Queen of Swords
2:30 Marital Law Red Storm
3:30 Cold Squad (Season II) Nancy Seniuik

HBO

- 6:30 Cinema Secrets II
7:00 Havana
10:00 Brave New World
12:00 Dance With Me
2:30 Beastmaster: The Eye of Braxus
4:30 Joe's Apartment
6:15 Darkman II: The Return of Durant
8:15 Disturbing Behavior
10:00 Practical Magic
12:15 Striking Distance
2:15 Dance with Me
4:45 Joe's Apartment

STAR MOVIES

- 7:15 American Cyborg
9:00 Ladybugs
10:30 Of Mice And Men
12:30 Beneath Loch Ness
2:15 Black River
3:45 When Danger Follows You Home
5:25 Deadly Little Secrets
7:00 Flying Virus
8:45 Stealth Hunters
10:15 Red Heat
12:00 Beneath Loch Ness
1:45 Incognito
3:30 Flying Virus
5:30 Skeletons In The Closet

HALMARK

- 1:00 Am The Inspectors 2
3:00 Am Bridge To Silence
5:00 Am The Railway Children
7:00 Am Scholastic Clifford - Come Back, Mac/Boo
7:30 Am Caillou - Episode # 25
8:00 Am Sesame Street - Episode # 97
9:00 Am Pals
11:00 Am The Infinite World Of H.G. Wells - Part # 1
1:00 Pm Touched By An Angel VII (25 X 1hr) - Episode # 7
2:00 Pm Early Edition - Season Iii - Blackout
3:00 Pm Scholastic Clif-

- ford - Come Back, Mac/Boo
3:30 Pm Caillou - Episode # 25
4:00 Pm Flipper (66 Episodes X 1hr) - Ghost Ship
5:00 Pm Sesame Street - Episode # 97
6:00 Pm Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 78 Random Thoughts
7:00 Pm The Infinite World Of H.G. Wells - Part # 2
9:00 Pm Early Edition - Season Iii - Collision
10:00 Pm Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 82 Waking Moments
11:00 Pm The Infinite World Of H.G. Wells - Part # 2

SONY

- 6:30 Just Mohabbat
7:00 Dil Ka Dwar Khol
7:30 Amrit Varsha
8:00 Sant Asaram Vani
8:30 Chartbusters
9:00 Good Morning Disney
9:30 Good Morning Disney
10:00 Music Mantra
10:30 Hum Pardesi Ho Gaye
11:00 Chamatkaar
11:30 Family No. 1
12:00 Hum Sab Ek Hain Heena
1:00 Kkusum
1:30 Papa Ban Gaye Hero
2:00 Kutumb
2:30 Kuchh Jhuki Palkain
3:00 Om Namay Shivay
3:30 Om Namay Shivay
4:00 Just Mohabbat
4:30 Chooti Si Asha
5:00 CATS
5:30 Star Yaar
6:00 Star Yaar
6:30 Disney Hour
7:00 Disney Hour
7:30 Chartbusters
8:00 Music Mantra
8:30 Kabhi Biwi Kabhi Jasoos
9:00 Kabhi Biwi Kabhi

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

- STAR MOVIES: 10.15 p.m. Red Heat. Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a Russian policeman sent after a Russian drug dealer who has escaped to the United States and is awaiting extradition in Chicago. Jim Belushi plays his temporary partner on the Chicago police. When the drug dealer escapes, the two police must overcome their differences in order to recapture him
AXN: 10.30p.m. The Blue Lagoon Richard and Em are children when shipwrecked and marooned alone on a lush tropical island. By the time they are rescued, they have

- 9:30 Jasoos
10:00 Kkusum
10:00 Kutumb
10:30 Achanak 37 Saal Baad
11:00 Aahat Dehshat Ke 6 Saal
11:30 Kuchh Jhuki Palkain
12:00 Chhoti Si Asha
SET MAX
7:30 Mini Movies: Shree Rambhakta Hanuman
8:30 Harmony
9:00 Hotlist
9:30 Koi Kisi Se Kam Nahin
1:00 Harmony
2:30 Waqt
CHANNEL [V] (30 minutes +)
7:00 [V] Hit Machine
7:30 [V] Back To Back
8:00 [V] Jumpstart
9:00 [V] Hit Machine
9:30 [V] Back To Back
10:00 [V] Hit Machine
10:30 [V] Back To Back
11:00 [V] Hit Machine
11:30 [V] Zabadast Hits
12:00 [V] Jungli Jukebo
13:00 [V] Hit Machine
13:30 [V] Zabadast Hits
14:00 [V] Back To Back

PICK OF THE DAY

- Practical Magic On HBO at 10:00p.m. The Owens sisters are not you plain Janes. Sally (Bullock, Miss Congeniality) and Gillian (Kidman, Moulin Rouge) hardly ever stick to conventions. They eat chocolate for breakfast, they stay up late and for recreation, they study

- 14:30 [V] Zabadast Hits
15:00 [V] Back To Back 0
15:30 [V] Hit Machin
16:00 [V] Hotline
17:00 Vtop5@5
17:30 [V] Ideo War
17:45 [V] Hit Machine
18:00 Very V
19:00 Ctrl [V]
19:30 [V] Zabadast Hits
20:00 [V] Back To Back
20:30 [V] Zabadast Hits
21:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox
21:30 [V] Fdfs
22:00 [V] Hit Machine
22:30 Late Night [V]
23:00 V Rated R
23:30 [V] Back To Back
Seat Atpa San Antonio, Tx Usa (R)
6:00 Sportscenter Hindi (R)
6:30 Women's College Volleyball Ncaa Div. I Women's Volleyball Championships New Orleans, La Usa
8:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Manchester, England Manchester United Vs Sunderland (R)
10:00 Asian Bowling Tour Aviva Asian Bowling Tour, Hong Kong Men's Highlights(T)
11:00 New Zealand Cricket National Bank Series 02/03 Queenstown, New Zealand Vs India
14:30 New Zealand Cricket National Bank Series 02/03 Queenstown, New Zealand Vs India

- 9:55 Kya Film Kya Geet
10:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai
10:30 Hera Pheri
11:00 Meri Saheli
11:25 Film Toppers
11:30 Shanti
12:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
12:30 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
13:00 Kulkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan Bhabhi
13:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi Shagun
14:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
15:00 Smriti
16:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz
16:30 Saans
17:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
17:30 Small Wonder
18:00 Fox Kids
18:40 Aaj Ki Baat
18:55 Kya Film Kya Geet
19:00 Kulkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
19:25 Film Toppers
19:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
20:00 Khichdi
20:30 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
21:00 Kehta Hai Dil
22:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
22:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
23:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz
23:30 Aaj Ki Baat

- 18:00 Football Focus (T)
18:30 Cricket Programming Samsung Ratings Year In Review (R)
19:00 Laguna Phuket Triathlon Phuket, Thailand Highlights(T)
20:00 Sportscenter Hindi (L)
20:30 Women's Pro Billiards 2002 Wpba Classic Tour New York, Ny Usa Semifinal #1(T)
21:30 Cricket Programming Legends Of Cricket (R)
22:15 Cricket Programming Legends Of Cricket (R)
23:00 Sportscenter Hindi (T)
23:30 Football Focus (R)

STAR GOLD

- (30 minutes +)
6:30 Geet Bahar
7:00 Dahej
10:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
10:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
11:00 Sharada
13:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
14:00 Geet Bahar
14:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
14:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
15:00 Avtaar
18:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
18:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
19:00 Khatarnaak
22:25 Kuch Hit Kuch

STAR PLUS

- (30 minutes +)
5:30 Bhabhi
6:00 Geet Bahar
6:30 Geet Bahar
7:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
7:30 Aatma
8:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
9:00 Fox Kids
9:40 Hit Geet

STAR SPORTS

- (30 minus +)
7:00 India Programming
8:00 Cricket Talk Show Harsha Online On Tour In New Zealand (R)
9:00 Australia Cricket Orange Test Series Sydney, Australia
10:30 South Africa Cricket Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series Cape Town, South Africa South Africa Vs Pakistan 2nd Test, Day 5, Highlights(R)
11:30 World Of Rugby The Irb's World Of Rugby (R)
12:00 Cycling Tour Durka Faso 2002 Burkina Faso, Africa Event Highlights(T)
13:00 International Motorsports News International Motorsports News 2003 (T)
14:00 Cricket Talk Show Harsha Online On Tour In New Zealand (R)
15:00 Ama Supercross Series 2003 Thq World Supercross Gp (250cc) Geneva, Switzerland Highlights(T)
16:00 Rally Racing Telefonica Dakar 2003 Day 4 Highlights(T)
16:30 Go Kart Mrf Formule Mondiale C'ship 2002 Kohlapur, India Event Highlights(T)
17:00 Rally Racing Mrf National Motocross

STAR WORLD

- (30 minutes +)
5:30 The Brady Bunch
6:00 Cheers
6:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
7:30 Bugs
8:30 That 70s Show
9:00 Grounded For Life
9:30 Boston Public
10:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
11:28 Star Asia Travel
11:30 Everybody Loves Raym
12:00 Becker
12:30 Suddenly Susan
13:00 The Bold And The Beautiful
13:30 Hollywood Squares
14:00 The Brady Bunch
14:30 Baywatch
15:30 The Simpsons
16:00 Cheers
16:30 Starnews Asia
17:00 Frasier
17:30 The Drew Carey Show
18:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
18:25 Starnews Asia

- C'ship 2002 Goa, India Event Highlights(T)
17:30 Spanish Football League 2002/03 Spanish Football League San Sebastian, Spain Real Sociedad Vs Malaga (T)
19:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (L)
20:00 Team India Programming India Glorious New Delhi, Up India India Vs New Zealand Wills Trophy 6th Odi H/Ls(T)
21:00 English Premier League Highlights English Premier League Highlights 2002/03 (T)
22:00 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (T)
22:30 Tennis Masters Series By Mercedes-Benz Rewind : Tennis Masters Toronto Toronto, On Canada Highlights(R)
23:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (R)

- C'ship 2002 Goa, India Event Highlights(T)
17:30 Spanish Football League 2002/03 Spanish Football League San Sebastian, Spain Real Sociedad Vs Malaga (T)
19:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (L)
20:00 Team India Programming India Glorious New Delhi, Up India India Vs New Zealand Wills Trophy 6th Odi H/Ls(T)
21:00 English Premier League Highlights English Premier League Highlights 2002/03 (T)
22:00 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (T)
22:30 Tennis Masters Series By Mercedes-Benz Rewind : Tennis Masters Toronto Toronto, On Canada Highlights(R)
23:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (R)