

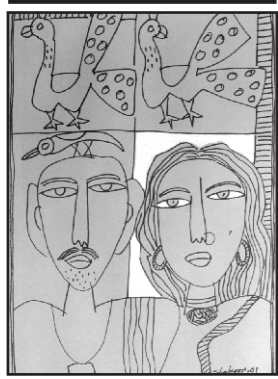
Art

A print-maker stresses on quality work

Jean-Pierre Tingaud talks of his experiences in Dhaka

FAYZA HAQ

RECOMMENDATIONS



Solo Exhibition The solo exhibition of the paintings and drawings by Abdus Shakoor is being held at the 'Shilpangan' gallery.

Concert

Antar Showbiz in collaboration with Close Up has organised a concert titled 'Rock Brigade' on January 17 at Army Stadium, Dhaka. Leading bands and solo artists such as LRB, dHAKA, Chime, NOVA, Banglar Baul, Prometheus, Edges, Aurthoin, Pantha Kanai, Conopy, Dalchhut, Tishma, Shumon and Sub Conscious will perform at the concert.

15th National Fine Arts Exhibition 2002

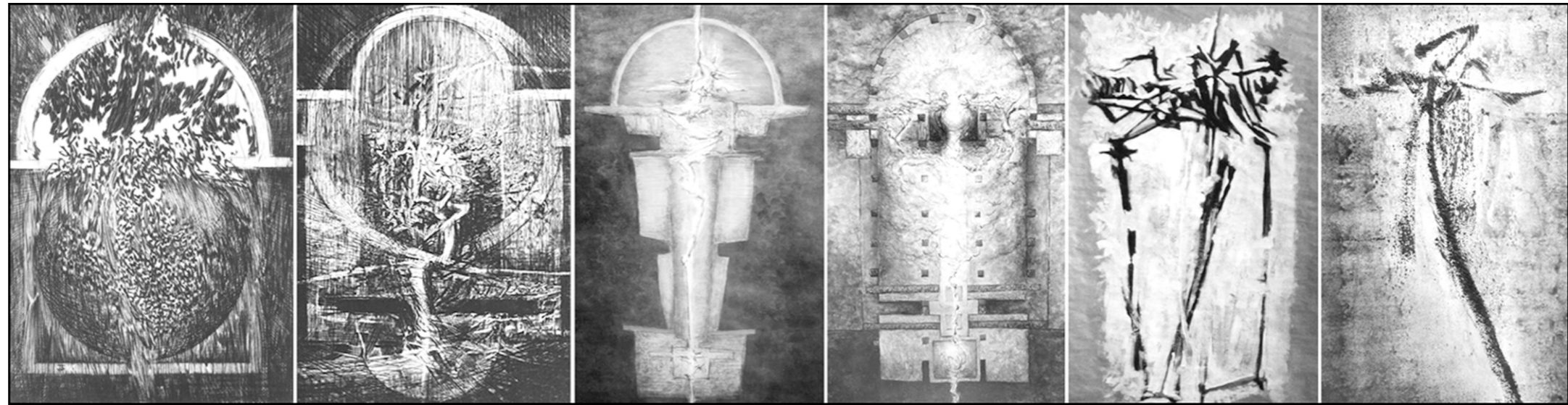
The 15th National Fine Arts Exhibition 2002 is being held at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The exhibition will run through January 27 everyday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays.

Children's Film Show

Zahir raihan Film Society in cooperation with the Russian Cultural Center will screen three children's films titled 'Father Frost', 'The Fairy Tale of the Czar Sultan' and 'Ruslan and Ludmila' at the Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi at 3.30pm, 5.00pm and 5.30pm respectively.

Painting exhibition

The second solo painting exhibition titled, 'The Rain' by Sarker Nahid Nazki will start at Alliance Francaise Gallery today at 5.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till January 24 from 9.00am to 12noon and from 5.00pm to 8.00pm daily except on Saturday from 5.00pm to 8.00pm



Samples of Jean-Pierre Tingaud's works

PHOTO: INTERNET

Jean-Pierre Tingaud, who has been out here in Dhaka for a fortnight recently, to run a workshop at the Institute of Fine Arts in print making, went into this particular field of fine arts 25 years ago. He comes from a family that is sensitive towards the arts, as his parents loved both painting and music; he went to fine arts and applied arts schools in Paris when he discovered engraving in applied arts. At the same time, he witnessed the exhibition of several famous engravers such as Albert Durer, Rembrandt, and also contemporary artists. He followed their ways of learning engraving, which took him to Madrid, Spain for two years in 1983; next he tried to follow a career of an engraver and painter. The main support for his engraving is metal, mainly copper and "buring," a simple pencil like sharp tool for engraving. He did a few woodcuts as a Fine Arts student but he felt more comfortable and felt he could express more and carry out more experimentation via metal.

Asked to say a few words about print-making today, Jean-Pierre Tingaud said that the advantage of print-making is to give an original art, which is less expensive than painting as there can be multiple copies from one plate or woodwork base as well as being a unique work of art on paper. Hence it is medium, he said, of diffusion for people who can afford a print: it is more interesting for communication of a message.

Talking about whether the abstract works done by some of the local printers like Rashid Amin, Md. Fakrul and those like Wakilur Rehman, who now resides in Germany, are beyond the comprehension of the average art lover and he/she fails to appreciate them, Tingaud said that whether they are abstract or not, it is the quality of the prints

that matters. The work should be well-done and should be generated by someone who knows what he/she is doing, he said, as in other fields like painting and sculpture the quality, feeling, seriousness and commitment to one's work is more important than whether the product is abstract or geometrical or whatever: a serious piece of art by a committed artist, engraving for example, is what matters. At the same time, Tingaud said that the public has to come closer to what is going on, so that an artist or an engraver in particular must be able to convey a message that is meaningful and comprehensive. An artist, Tingaud said, is someone who should be able to teach people to look at things from different angles. He added that if a work of art has genuine quality the viewer can learn to look at things with a new vision.

Asked if he had seen some of the works produced at the Fine Arts Institute DU, Tingaud said that he had seen some samples although he was here for a fairly short time, perhaps not enough to examine and experience all

that Bangladeshi print-makers have to offer. He came here on an official mission of the French Embassy, the Cultural Department run by Andre Raynouard, who organised this cultural exchange between Bangladesh and France." The responsible people also include Jean Dometti, a French artist, who also had a hand in the arrangement of sending me here. The workshop took place at the Fine Arts Institute DU and leading artists lie Mahmudul Haque, Rokeya Sulatana and Alvi were also a vital part of the collaboration. A seminar also followed so that students from the Print-Making Department could benefit from this.

"My mission was to show the principles of direct engraving of metal. I did not teach etching or wood-cut. Dry-point with the 'buring', a specific etching tool is what I taught. This tool has come down through the ages, and is very simple to make a point or lines so that it is like a pencil. The first step was to make adaptations of the sketches and drawings on the plate, zinc or copper. The next

part was the printing with the preparation of the plate and the ink. I showed them the different qualities of paper too. The aim was to learn new ways of drawing adapted to sensitivity and specific techniques of direct engraving. Print-making and engraving is a new way of editing high quality of images. As I said before, this is to show the people that they can learn about making high-quality images in a simple way, with paper, plate, and ink."

Asked if this was in any different from what the print-makers were doing before, Tingaud said, "Woodcuts and etchings are one family: somehow, we spent five to six days trying new ways of looking at nature, people and other subjects, new ways to draw and then to adapt these new ways of drawings in engraving. I hope things have changed for my students and fellow-workers. The technique was different as the approach was direct and more free with the plate. There was also freer attitude with the drawing."

Talking about his students,

15 to 20 in all, he said that they came from Print Making Department, DU and that he hoped to learn more about the entire Institute in the following days of his visit. He felt that the students were truly committed to continue and they have had good results so far. Tingaud said, "I'm every day at the Fine Arts Institute from 10 am to 2 pm. The rest of the day I discuss and exchange views with the students and look around."

Dwelling on whether had absorbed any other sector of our culture apart from Fine Arts, Tingaud said that he had been received a warm welcome wherever he went, as he had been invited to art exhibitions and had been to the homes of some of the artists and there got exposed to other aspects of Bangladeshi culture such as food, clothes and music. He said, that unfortunately, he had not seen very many concerts or stage plays, but he like variations of Indian music, to which he had been earlier exposed to while in France. He is well attuned to the notes of Ravi Shankar and other Indian clas-

sical exponents, and has often he has often heard the "sitar", "tabla", "harmonium" and the "tanpura" like so many other culturally oriented Europeans today.

Asked to incidentally comment on fusion music, as a part of modern cultural penchant in trends, Tingaud said that one cannot avoid the mixture of the hybrid happenings. What he abhors, of course, as he had stressed often before, was the lack of quality. He said that an Indian artist Tillak Gurtu, a drummer, for him is someone who continues to carry his tradition, combining both oriental and western music, and he played with western musicians like John MacLaughlin, and English guitarist. Their combined efforts, for Tingaud was disciplined an created superb music, where the east and west met with ease.

Tingaud added, about his exposure to our eastern culture, during his fortnight's stay at Dhaka, "This is my first visit to the Indian Subcontinent but I have eaten Indian food although

what is served in the west is slightly different as it contains less spices to suit the European customer at the restaurants. Culturally, the people here are exposed to many more spices and it is natural and expected."

As for the exotic saris, embroidered shawls and "shalwar-kameez", the flowing female hair, Tingaud said he felt that the women here were extremely elegantly dressed and carried themselves gracefully.

Coming down to the subject of whether he had an opportunity to examine the works of the Bangladeshi artists, like Mahmudul Haque and Rokeya Sultana, Jamal Ahmed, Abdus Sattar and Nasreen Begum, Tingaud said, "Yes, I have seen the works of many of the artists and definitely liked them all."

Jean-Pierre Tingaud was not like some of the visitors to Dhaka who say that they had been limited to their hotel rooms -- being on short-term tours. He came, he saw, and enjoyed almost everything.

TV GUIDE

Table with columns for BTV, ATN BANGLA, and CHANNEL i, listing programs and times.

Table with columns for ATN BANGLA, ATN BANGLA, and HBO, listing programs and times.

Table with columns for Man, THAT OLD FEELING, AXN, STAR MOVIES, SONY, and HBO, listing programs and times.

Table with columns for TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS, PICK OF THE DAY, ERASER, ADVENTURE ONE, SET MAX, and CHANNEL [V], listing programs and times.

Table with columns for STAR GOLD, STAR WORLD, and STAR GOLD, listing programs and times.

Table with columns for 9:55, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:25, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 13:00, 13:30, 14:00, 14:30, 15:00, 15:30, 16:00, 16:30, 17:00, 17:30, 18:00, 18:40, 18:55, 19:00, 19:25, 19:30, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00, 23:30, listing programs and times.

Table with columns for 17:30, 18:25, 18:30, 19:30, 20:28, 20:30, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00, 23:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 13:00, 13:30, 14:00, 14:30, 15:00, 15:30, 16:00, 16:30, 17:00, 17:30, 18:00, 18:40, 18:55, 19:00, 19:25, 19:30, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00, 23:30, listing programs and times.

Table with columns for 21:00, 23:00, 23:30, STAR SPORTS, 6:00, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 14:00, 14:30, 15:30, 16:00, 16:30, 17:00, listing programs and times.