

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Exhibition April 16-20 5-15 years old children participate in an exhibition of paintings... CD launch April 18 Singer Lina Taposhi Khan will launch her third album... Poetry April 23 The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran will hold a poetry evening... Calligraphy April 13-20 On occasion of Bangla Nabo Barsha, Bangladesh Calligraphy Academy... Nree April 13-28 Nree is holding a photography and research work exhibition... Theatre April 17-23 Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organises a week-long staging of drama...

Interview

If flowers are what you fancy

Iffat Ara Dewan talks about her work

FAYZA HAQ

I FFAT Ara Dewan, who held her fourth solo exhibition at Bengal Gallery, says, "Art has always been one of my favourite subject during my school days. I have always wanted to go into fine arts but earlier never went about it. About 12 years ago, I took my child's crayons and writing pad and began my career in the art world in that manner. At first I was doing the cover for my LP. Abul Khair, my patron, had suggested that I work on it. This was my first serious project in the art world. I did an art piece that was used as an LP cover. When I had collected some works gradually, I had my first solo in 1992, my medium being chalk pastels. I've tried my hand with oils but it takes longer and is more complicated. Again, the smell of turpentine hampers my throat, and so my singing, which is my primary forte. I've had three other solo exhibitions, the first at Goethe Institut in 1992, the second was in 1997 at Divine Art Gallery, the third was in Singapore in 2000 at Gallery Belvedere."

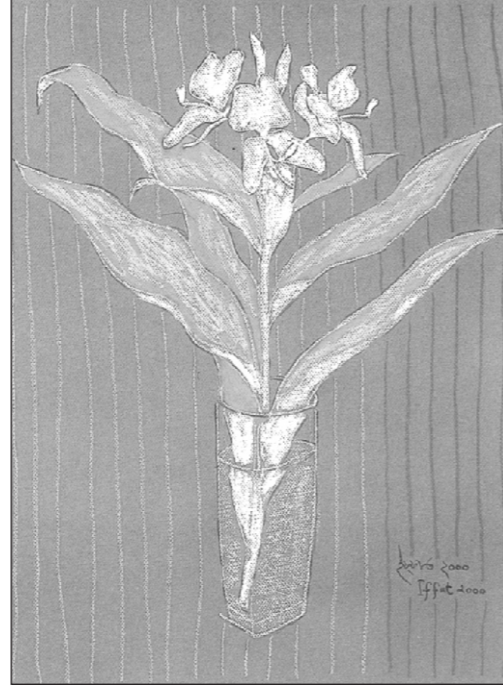


Iffat Ara Dewan

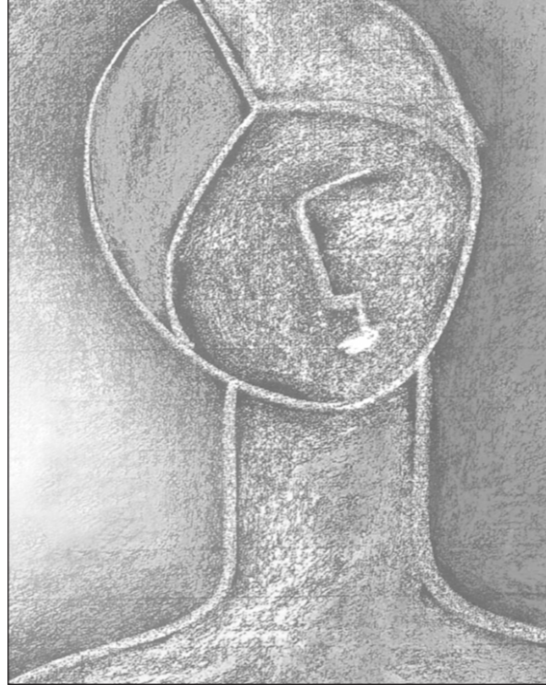
usually work in the afternoon. I have music on in the background and this comprises of sitar or 'santur' or some of my own songs. I finish my work at one go because if there is a break it destroys the continuity. "I have my inspirations basically by looking at the paintings of the masters of the past, specially the Impression-

ists, such as Van Gogh, Monet, Manet and Matisse. I love to go through their paintings in the books that I possess. Whenever I have gone overseas I have tried to see as many art museums as I can. Here in Bangladesh, I have not spent much time in examining the works of our senior painters although I have seen them whenever I have had the opportunity, such as those of Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan and Mohammed Kibria, and they do move me immensely. As for women artists of our country, I like the paintings of Rokeya Sultana," says Dewan. Asked to comment on some of her work which are apparently naive, Dewan says, "My charcoal drawings of birds and furniture are included in the exhibition to lend variety to my work. Even if I'm not that good in drawing the interior of houses, when I've spoken to senior painters, I'm told that they like them. My sketch of the birds was appreciated by Shafuiddin ages back and Ferdousi Priobhashini has taken one of them and tells me that visitors to her sitting room long to own that sketch. They may appear some-

what naive but I'm proud to present them as I know that they are admired." Talking about why she preferred to use the chalk pastels rather than anything else, Dewan says, "I've tried to paint with oils but I'm not comfortable with them. I have always been fascinated with coloured chalk but it is only recently that I've realized that one can seriously do art work with chalk pastels which are quick and easy to use so that you can complete one work at one sitting." Asked if her music, in anyway, affect her passion for her fine art work with pastels, "Maybe unconsciously it does, both being creative, and being related to one another. I wouldn't like to do anything else rather than sing and paint." Commenting on the time that she gives to her art work, Dewan says, "I'm not all that regular about the sketches that I make. I sing every day but don't paint everyday. Sometimes weeks go by before I sit with my colour pastels." Not many artists can speak freely about their work as Iffat Ara Dewan can.



Dolon Champa in a glass vase



Festival

Twenty years of celebrating Nabo Barsha

CULTURE DESK

CULTURAL group Wrishiz Shilpi Goshthi achieved a remarkable milestone this Pahela Baishakh: it celebrated the Bangla New Year for the twentieth time. Expressing fellowship with the people of the country, like many other organisations, Wrishiz Shilpi Goshthi organised a celebration of the Bangla New Year on April 14 at the entrance of the Shishu Park at Shahbagh. "Stop war, protect humans--our songs are for peace"--holding this slogan atop, Wrishiz dedicated the cultural show in memory of recently deceased cultural personalities actor Gulam Mustafa and singer Nilufer Yasmin. Wrishiz was joined by other cultural groups in the city. Reputed poet Fayeze Ahmed declared the inauguration of the programme. A short session of speeches preceded the main cultural show, in which Fayeze Ahmed, General Secretary of Udichi Mahmud Selim, GS of Kranti Mahmud Haider Mohon, lyricist Asheque



Mahmud, former gano-sangeet performer Monirul Alam and Wrishiz President Fakir Alamgir spoke against war. All senior and younger artistes of Wrishiz performed in the cultural show. Among the seniors were present Abdul Jabbar, Subir Nandi, Dr. Arupratan Chowdhury, Mina Barua, Shoma Ray, Farzana Mili received medals in music, organiser Shadhat Hossain Nipu, Wrishiz, Kranti, lyricist Asheque Mahmud and Fakir Alamgir received medals for organising activities. heat and humid weather of Baishakh. On this occasion Shah Cement Industries Ltd. declared Shah Cement Honorarium Medals 1410 for excellence in cultural fields. Abdul Jabbar, Subir Nandi, Dr. Arupratan Chowdhury, Mina Barua, Shoma Ray, Farzana Mili received medals in music, organiser Shadhat Hossain Nipu, Wrishiz, Kranti, lyricist Asheque Mahmud and Fakir Alamgir received medals for organising activities. The programme marked coming together of some senior singers with the younger ones. And it also provided the music lovers of the city with opportunity of getting some musical refreshment at this hot and humid time of year.

Music

The colours of Geetanjali

CULTURE DESK

GEETANJALI held a music performance on spring songs recently. The group presented a number of Rabindra songs on the season at the Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium of the Public Library. Entitled Rang Lagaley Boney Boney, the programme was dedicated to the hope of peace in the world at a time when it is threatened by the onslaught of war. The performance started with the playing of the Basant Bahar on the setaar in accompaniment of Lahara on the tabla. 'Ananter baani tumi Basanter madhuri utshabey' was the first song to be sung in chorus by Geetanjali. The second one--'Nabo Basanter dander doli/Enechhi toderi dwarey'--was also a chorus by the female singers. Some more numbers were then performed by individual artistes. The soiree included



TV GUIDE

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes channels like ATN Bangla, Channel-i, HBO, AXN.

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