

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

June 06-11
Freelance Artist Abdus Salam's solo art exhibition titled Shomoyer Bastabota (Fantasy with Reality) is going on at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka.

June 06-16
A photography exhibition titled 'Cityscape' is being held at the Shipparag gallery (House 15, Road 16, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1209) from June 6.

June 6-19
A painting exhibition of Rashid Amin titled 'Happenings' is going on at the German Cultural Centre, Goethe Institut Dhaka from June 6th to 19th.

June 12-13
The Bangladesh Bonsai Society and the Japanese Embassy will jointly organise the eighth exhibition of bonsai art-works at the BRAC Centre at Mohakhali.

Theatre

June 27-30
To mark the fourth Biannual Conference of Shattwik Natya Somprody, the theatre group arranges a drama festival at the Shawkat Osman auditorium of Begum Sufia Kamal Library.

Exhibition

Lines that linger on in the mind

Javed Jalil's exhibition at Café Mango

FAYZA HAQ

JAVED Jalil, who is having his exhibition at Café Mango, says, "I went into painting seriously when I went to Los Angeles, USA, for various pur-



Artist Javed Jalil poses, and in time got interested in painting. One of the main reasons was probably that I was alone and wanted to explore and understand myself.



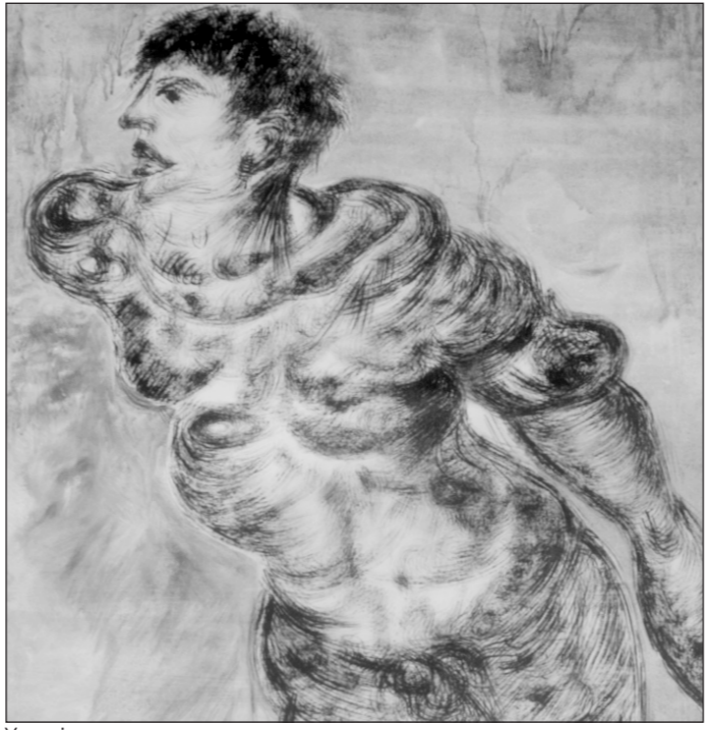
Memory

thoughts and feelings as I'd had a hard time with my adult life. I needed salvation by totally merging myself in work that would relate to my soul." Asked if he went into painting straight away, Javed says, "I began doing drawings and studying art formally at Los Angeles School of Design for 18 months in 1993, and from there I went to meet different artists in the vicinity like David Hockney, and attended his workshop for three weeks. I started venturing myself more into my own thoughts and perceptions.

Talking about the artists who had inspired him most of all, Javed says, "The Renaissance painters like Michelangelo and Raphael, later Valesquez and Goya, and modern artists like Picasso impressed me greatly. Goya's demons and nightmares, destruction of life and turmoil in the inner world in his direct way influenced me greatly. I liked the way he expressed his life in his works going about his paintings with bold honesty and inimitable power of expression."

Touching on his present exhibition, Javed says, "There are a dozen paintings which are in mixed media, some having colours. They are mainly done with the traditional Chinese brush. I did the rendering with ink on paper. The figures here are based on impulse and my obsession for the Renaissance art which I love and I try to use the lines according to my own temperament and mood, expressing them with my own personal emotions. I mainly work with male and female figures along with horses. The reason why I like in horses is because I like their shapes. When I draw a horse it gives me a link with some element of power, grace and strength. To me horses are something mystical and they come from memory and references to what I've seen before. The human forms are based on models and my understanding of them as my study of art began with drawing classical figures. I believe I have my own way of perceiving them."

Talking about his some of his works, Javed says, "There is 'Conflict' with a woman between two horses, one being larger than the other. The taller horse has compassion for the woman and I used it symbolically. The other one is something like a demon. The painting is a conflict between good and bad, an experience which I sometimes face myself. The next one is 'Spirit' which again has a woman and there is a dark moon at the back. If you concentrate on the woman's face you will see a horse almost coming out from within her. This represents her inner spirit, or rage, or the memory of someone



like a romantic journey. There are then two studies of figures. They portray the beauty and grace of the female form and it has a touch of Japanese calligraphy. It is wrapped with lines as if it is her clothing or skin. It deals with harmony. The other one has the same concept only it has the addition of coloured wax crayons to add to the drawing to bring in brightness and give a contrast of colours. The emotional and psychological elements are the same." Asked why he had moved from the canvas of his earlier works seen before in two exhibitions at "Shiipangan" and "Alliance

Francese", Javed says, "I find the paper easier to preserve at my own place. Here I've used ink and brush because in one stroke I get so many lines which is fascinating to control, while I try to capture the essence of the spirit of my work." Javed Jalil has held three exhibitions at Los Angeles and two earlier ones at Dhaka. He teaches art at a local school.

Interview

A promising Tabla player

Introducing Raju Chowdhury

NOVERA DEEPIA

'T was in 1982, I got admitted to a music school and took lessons on Tabla' said Raju Chowdhury. After ten years or so, I got my first lesson from Pandit Bijan Kumar Chowdhury of Bangasree Shilpee Sangshad. I had been to Kolkata in 1990 where I went under the rigorous training of Pandit Aninda Chatterjee.' This paved Raju's way to go to Lucknow with scholarship sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).



Back from India Raju took Tabla-playing as a profession. 'I'm fortunate enough to get a government job in the BTV as a staff artiste and have a job security', he says. 'It's very difficult to earn a living as a Tabla-player without any patronisation. I also perform on media like audiocassettes, stage etc.'

Raju mentions that the increase of satellite television has led to wider scopes for Tabla-playing but the true admiration of Tabla, especially for solo performance, has not increased as such. The solo performance is not popular in our country. The Tabla is used as an accompaniment with the singers or dancers on stage or any other media.

'I am trying my best to bring forward solo Tabla recitals at the media. I performed a solo Tabla recital for BTV which is going on air as a filler. Programme Manager (Drama) Kamrun Nesa Hasan helped me a lot.' Raju says, 'There is a story in the music played on the Tabla just as there is always a story in a song and a dance. I want the audience to listen to that story.'

Tabla is the most used instrument among all the musical instruments that are played with the songs in the Subcontinent. But the traditional gurus are no more there these days. 'Tabla has a language of its own, the right weight of the hands, and the feel of the fingers-to make the instrument speak properly. These two things should meet first, otherwise the Tabla will not 'speak' rightly

Music



A music programme was organised recently by Sur Sadhana, commemorating the birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam. Suhaila Zahir and Khairuzzaman Qayum are seen performing at the show at the Russian Culture Centre.

TV GUIDE

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



STAR MOVIES at 08:45 p.m. The Affair of the Necklace. Paris, 1786: a woman in court. The Crown murdered her father for his views about the poor, now Jeanne wants her home and good name back. She believes all can be set right if she can talk to the Queen, whose House Minister rebuffs her. With the help of a court-side gigolo, she learns to use what others desire to get what she wants.

PICK OF THE DAY



Probash Mela On BTV at 5:30 p.m. This information-based entertaining programme by the Bangladeshi expatriates will be aired today. England-based Bangladeshi singer Dwitio and Shimul Choudhury from Dubai will perform songs. Editor of Shaptahik Thikana, M M Shahin has given an interview. Maria Choudhury and Ayesha Zaman Sinha from America will perform a classical dance and recitation of poem in this programme. There will be a short drama on marriage over phone.

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