



Meeting of the Multinationals, acrylic on canvas

Strange World Indeed

MUSTAFA ZAMAN

FOUR mutant-like figures have turtles as their faces; a burning candle takes the shape of an old haggard man; A group of mutants, whose body structures imitate the steps of the stairs they are ascending, are known by their national emblem, which is the chilly; these are the unusual takes on a world that Ronni Ahmed brings into existence to defy logic, laws and ideologies of the world he himself lives in. In fact the world that the artist strives to create is a world that is tangentially related to the "real world", if there is such a thing. In fact Ronni's work calls into question this very idea of living in a world that is knowable as well as definable.

As far as his pictorial language is concerned he has his own explanation. "In each picture I try to freeze a moment in the time of the pseudo world that is the creation of my imagination. They are the myths of a mythical society that runs parallel to the world I live in," says Ronni, who is having his fourth solo exhibition at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts.

What is the object of creating a world that runs counter to the world we already have some knowledge about? Do the fantastic features and the strange creatures that are the hallmarks of this created world shoo us away from our own realities? Is it a way to transcend the reality that bites at our conscience? Standing vis-à-vis the latest

works of the artist one can only say that these seemingly fantastic images bring us closure to the realisation that reality itself is a very complex proposition and is, in most part, hinged on irrationality, no matter how hard we try to define it or reshape it according to human logic. And on top of that the way we perceive our immediate realities leave us no choice but to bring into play our most powerful sense -- imagination.

It is with imagination that Ronni creates the world marked by hyperbole. In his world creatures create myths, they engage themselves in technological endeavours, they compete with each other in pursuit of unknown goals, they even inflict pain on each other without much consequence. In fact in this bizarre world all actions are futile, they have no fruitful ends. The mutants, that at times look bestial and occasionally look closer to humans, are engaged in absurd exercises and are utterly oblivious of the result that they might accrue. It is this sense of futility that the artist brings to bear on every aspect that he depicts of his strange parallel civilisation. Ronni's world can at best be summed up as a cutting parody of the world we live in.

"I want to pin point the main political ballgames rather than what happens on the surface-level. One can depict Iraqis dying at the hands of the Americans in Iraq that