

WHAT'S ON



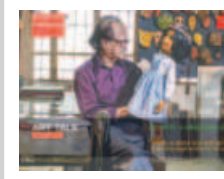
Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Truce
Artist: Ata Mojlish
Venue: Dwp Gallery, Lalmatia
Date: January 25 – February 1
Time: 3 pm – 9 pm (Except Mondays)



Workshop
Title: Kata Kuti - Collage Workshop
by Kazi Tahsin
Agaz Apurbo
Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur
Date: February 22, 2020
Time: 11 am – 6 pm



Music Conference
Title: Shurey Milay Guru Tomay,
Tumi Milao Praney Pran
Venue: Bandar Girls' High School
and College, Narayanganj
Date: January 27-30
Time: 12 pm onwards



Art Talk
Title: Art Talk Session 01: Oshanti je
aghat kore taito bina bajey
Venue: EMK Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: Today
Time: 6 pm onwards



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Breaking Ground: Modern Art in
Transition
Venue: Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall,
Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 17 – Feb 15
Time: 1 pm – 8 pm (Except Sundays)



PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

Rongbaaz releases at Britto Art Space



SUMAIYA KABIR

If you have ever somehow wondered about what Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper* would look like as a rickshaw painting, you can now have your curiosity satisfied if you visit Britto Art Space, located at Dhaka's Green Road.

As an ode to our traditional rickshaw paintings and vibrant film posters, *Rongbaaz* is an exhibition appropriately named after Bangladesh's legendary actor Nayak Raj Razzak's film, released in 1973. To bring life into the white space, artists of Britto -- Mahbubur Rahman, Tayeba Begum Lipi, Shimul Saha, Yasmin Jahan Nupur, Aminul Islam Ashik, Jewel A Rob, Shimul

Dutta and Lutfun Nahar collaborated with prominent rickshaw painter Tapan Das and noted banner painter Mohammad Hanif Pappu.

This collective project took two months to complete and was finally inaugurated by Khusi Kabir, Chairperson, Britto Arts Trust, along with members of the Board of Trustees, Mahbubur Rahman and Imran Hossain Piplu, recently.

For many years, these kinds of works have been a part of public art in South Asia, marking a new urban popular art form, and Britto continues to collaborate with traditional artists and artisans to redefine Dhaka's contemporary art practice.

Using the signature colour palette

of rickshaw art and conventional Dhallywood cinema banners, they have painted variety of subjects from legendary pop icon Michael Jackson saluting our *Pop Guru* Azam Khan, to the American actress Marilyn Monroe, and even recreated *The Last Supper!* Portrait of renowned comedian and painter Tele Samad, along with the visage of an unnamed rickshaw puller has been portrayed on the walls of the gallery.

For Instagram lovers, there is a great spot for photos in front of a rickshaw with wings. A corner has been dedicated to pots and pans painted in the same style as well. A lot more of this can be experienced until the February 15 from 1 pm to 8 pm every day.



"To create art, you must contain it in your heart"

—Tauquir Ahmed



PHOTO: STAR

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award winning director Tauquir Ahmed has won the National Film award five times. For *Joyjatra*, he won the National Film award three times. Tauquir recently bagged Best Director Award for *Fagun Haway* in Sixth Rajasthan International Film Fest in India. In a candid chat with *The Daily Star*, the talented director opens up about his works and achievements.

Recently, you achieved Best director award for *Fagun Haway* in Rajasthan. Tell us more about it.

I was honoured with Best Director award in the foreign film category at the Sixth Rajasthan International Film Fest this year. *Fagun Haway* was screened at the fest on January 22. The audience along with the jury board highly praised the film. This film won awards at SAARC and at London Rainbow Film fest as well. The film was praised in Shanghai Film fest too.

Is *Fagun Haway* being showcased at any other festival?

Fagun Haway will be showcased at Chennai Independent Film festival soon. The film will also be showcased at Delhi Raipur Film festival.

You won the National Film award five times, and are acclaimed internationally for your direction. How do these experiences inspire you?

Winning the biggest national award for film is certainly a very inspiring experience. These achievements give me a lot of inspiration. When I go abroad with my films, I get to interact with film enthusiasts and internationally acclaimed directors, which affect me profoundly.

What are you currently busy with?

I am working on a new web series, *Ghor*. I am also working on a new television drama titled *Rupali Jotsnay* for Channel i. The first lot shooting was finished recently.

In your opinion, how much impact do books, films and music have on a creative person?

There is no alternative to reading. I believe that if you read 50 pages, then you can write one page. The films should have something that attracts people to the theatres. To create something meaningful, you need to know a lot. I acquire knowledge from books. Books, good films and good music all these are necessary for creativity. I believe, to create art, you must contain it in your heart.



Daily Star Books gets authors and readers talking

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Daily Star Books recently organised an event aimed to increase the engagement between young authors and readers before the Ekushey Book Fair, 2020. Held at The Daily Star's library, the interactive session titled *Lekhhok Pathok Mukhomukhi* brought forth an open and critical discussion between renowned young writers and passionate readers. Moderated by Emran Mahfuz, co-ordinator of Daily Star Books, the event was inaugurated by Sarah Anjum Bari, the In-charge of the publishing imprint, with a welcome speech. In an attempt to extend institutional support to authors, the event brought together five young writers – Sadat Hossain, Asif Mehedi, Jannatun Nayeem Prity, Abdullah Al Imran, and Pias Majid.

"Bringing out our inner imagination and creativity using a perfect bunch of words is what makes us authors" shared Sadat Hossain, who was honoured with Humayun Ahmed Sahitya Puroshkar 2019, recently. He enraptured the audience with his childhood tales of wit, and discussed the role of his mother in making him the person he is today. This year, five of his books would be available at Kolkata's International Book Fair. He would also release *Mornottum* at this year's Ekushey book fair. When asked about how he deals with criticism, he said, "As a writer, I am obliged to listen to all criticism, but whether I implement them in my writing is a part of my creative agency."

Asif Mehedi has authored over 25 books on a wide array of topics, including information technology and science fiction. He discussed the role books play in the personality development of an individual. "In order to develop our nation, we must nurture a generation equipped with scientific knowledge. Books are the optimal medium to extend this to the masses," he said, mentioning that he sees his books as "infotainment" – a blend of knowledge and entertainment. This year, he

of politics."

Abdullah Al Imran, through his writing, focuses on folk culture and is vocal about issues such as the rights of Jute labourers. He is hopeful about his upcoming novel, *Chandralekha*.

Pias Majid believes in writing books that are relevant to writers' personal lives. His poems depicting human emotions and life dynamics are widely appreciated by readers. His poetry books *Boshonto*, *Kokiler Kortobbo*, *Golaper Nohobot*, *Dupurer Moto Deergo Kobita* and *Dhormashagor Shohor* will be released this year.

Conversations highlighting the importance of books, effect of criticism on authors and challenges in the journey of publishing a book, witnessed the active participation of the audience. The event ended with a question-answer session, where readers got the opportunity to interact with their favourite authors, as well as special appearances from Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief of Culture Initiatives, The Daily Star and Elita Karim, Editor, Arts & Entertainment and Star Youth, The Daily Star.

Lekhhok Pathok Mukhomukhi was a unique session, appreciated by the writers and audience present at the venue. As per the organisers, more such initiatives will be introduced by the platform to bridge the gap between readers and writers in the coming months. Daily Star Books will also be launching 5 new books at this year's Ekushey Book Fair.



PHOTOS: PIYAS BISWAS

will be publishing four books for children.

In this year's book fair, Jannatun Nayeem Prity's *Tala Bhangar Pala*, a collection of twelve stories on global politics and social issues including rape, will be published. The writer is celebrated for her outspoken nature regarding current global issues, and our liberation war. "Even if you say that I am apolitical, that in itself is a political statement. No one is outside