

WHAT'S ON



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Three Worlds
Venue: Shilpakala Gallery,
Lalmatia, Dhaka
Date: January 31 –
February 11
Time: 3 pm – 8 pm



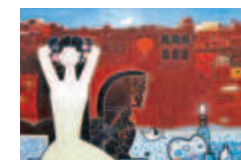
Winter Festival
Title: Heem Utshab
Venue: Jahangirnagar University
Date: February 6-7
Time: 10 am onwards



Book Fair
Title: Amar Ekushey Bui Mela
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy
Premises
Date: Feb 2 - 29
Time: 3 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)



Group Art Exhibition
Title: 7
Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara
Date: January 24 –
February 7
Time: 11:30 am – 7:30 pm



(From left) Biswajit Goswami, Badrul Alam Bhuiyan, Nadia Samdani and Rajib Samdani at the conference.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

DAS 2020 to begin from February 7

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

At a press conference at the National Art Gallery's auditorium yesterday, Co-Founder of the Samadani Art Foundation, Rajib Samdani, and Director of Samdani Art Foundation, Nadia Samdani highlighted the details of the Dhaka Art Summit (DAS) 2020. Secretary of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Badrul Alam Bhuiyan was also present. Biswajit Goswami, one of the curators of the summit, highlighted various aspects of the exhibition. The main venue of the fifth edition of the DAS is the National Art Gallery building of the Shilpakala Academy, and a sculptural garden outside the building. The first performance will be held in Gallery 6 of Chitrashala on February 7. Bangladeshi artist Ariful Kabir will participate in the Samdani Art Award performance on the same day. On the inaugural day, Karakrut Arundhachal and Alex Vojio will attend the performance, titled *Together (Dhaka Edition)*.

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a special exhibition, *Lighting the Fire of*

Freedom: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, has been arranged on the first floor of the academy, as a part of the summit. The exhibition is supervised by the Center for Research and Information (CRI), with support of the Department of Information and Communication Technology and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. There will be a collection of historical photographs of Bangabandhu. Besides Bangladesh, there will be 500 painters, sculptors, curators, art critics, art professionals, art collectors, architects and media personalities from 44 countries, including Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, France, Italy, Iran, Sri Lanka, Japan, the United States, and the United Kingdom, among others.

This time, the Summit Art Foundation will try to attract international special attention to South Asian art practice through the summit. At the event, 500 well-established and talented South Asian artists will showcase their works. Of these, 290 are the emerging artists of Bangladesh. Prominent artists will also attend the summit.

Roots, a special exhibition, will be held under Biswajit Goswami's supervision. The life and works of

Zainul Abedin, S M Sultan and Kamrun Hasan, especially, the painters who contributed a lot to the development of art education will be highlighted through different arrangements.

There are seminars, symposiums, solo and group lectures in the country and abroad with the participation of art critic and art collectors. There will also be a documentary exhibition of art subjects.

Under the supervision of the Samadani Art Foundation, the Samdani Art Award is being organised by 12 selected artists with the partnership of the UK-based Delphina Foundation.

The purpose of the art award is to promote emerging and talented artists from Bangladesh, internationally. Ariful Kabir, Ashfika Rahman, Faiham Ebna Sharif, Habiba Nowrose, Nazmun Nahar Keya, Palash Bhattacharjee, Promiti Hossain, Soma Surovi Jannat, Sounak Das, Sumana Akter, Zihan Karim and Tahia Farhin Haque are in the short list for this year's awards. Aaron Cezar, Director, Delphina Foundation, Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, Director, Castello di Rivoli, and Eugenie Joo, Curator, S F MoMA, along with artists Julie Mehretu and Adrian Villar Rojas will serve as

members of the International Jury Board for the award.

International gallery designers have worked to aesthetically design the Dhaka Art Summit. One of the features of this event is to have a complete 'plastic-free' display. To that end, eco-friendly papers, bamboos, canes and wood are being used. A reputable establishment in Switzerland is tasked with the decorations. There will be no use of air conditioning in the exhibit this time.

The audience can enjoy the exhibition without any registration from 10 am to 8 pm. Visitors are discouraged from carrying large bags at the event for security reasons. At the same time, no food or drinks will be allowed inside the gallery. However, a food court has been set up at the academy grounds.

The Ministry of Culture Affairs is supporting the summit, along with the Department of Information and Communication Technology and Bangladesh Art Academy. The title sponsor of the summit is Golden Harvest.

For more details on the event, visit www.dhakaartsummit.org.

EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

Modina Jahan Rime's 'Psychoder Motbinimoy Shobha' to intrigue youngsters

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

Modina Jahan Rime's *Kichu Jonmo Nichok* coincided was 2018's bestseller from Darikoma Prokashoni. Rime's journey as a writer started in 2015 with her first novel, *Insomnia*.

This year she introduces *Psychoder Motbinimoy Shobha*, published by Chondrobindu. The illustration of the book was done by Sarajat Showmo.

Rime completed her post-graduation in Mass Communication from Kualalumpur, Malaysia. However, her true interest lies in psychology. All three of her novels explore the basics of social psychology, in which she incorporates psychological aspects into fiction writing. "My intention is not to convey a certain message through my novel, but to provide a kind of solace to someone dealing with mental struggles", says Rime.

"This book is basically about a meeting between neurotics where they discuss love, loss, poems, mathematics, and science," shares Rime. "I invite the readers to take part in this meeting."

The book will be available at stall 607 for BDT 150. "The publishers and organisers need to be more selective about the contents of the books to uphold the honour of the Ekushey Bui Mela", says the writer. Rime is currently working in an NGO and plans to work on teenagers' mental struggles in the future.



PHOTO: COURTESY



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Abu Rushd Memorial Awards conferred

Marking the 101st birth anniversary of the eminent writer, scholar and freedom fighter Abu Rushd (1919-2010), his family honoured four noted personalities of the country. They also provided research grants to emerging scholars and writers at WVA auditorium, recently.

PRIVANKA CHOWDHURY

Former Finance Minister M Saiduzzaman was present at the event as the chief guest, while National Professor Anisuzzaman was the key speaker. The programme was presided over by Major General (Retd) F R Mamun. Renowned journalist Syed Badrul Ahsan also attended the occasion.

Khushi Kabir (Social Welfare), M A Kashem (Higher Education), Ruhul Quddus (Culture) and Habibullah Siraji (Literature) were honoured with the Abu Rushd Memorial Award. Kazi Alim Uzzaman received the research grant worth BDT 30,000 and a certificate for his

contribution to education, literature and culture.

"Unlike his contemporaries, Abu Rushd had a unique style of writing. His novel, *Nongor*, was possibly the first to highlight our language movement. We could not give him the importance that he deserved. As a nation, the liability is ours," said National Professor Anisuzzaman.

"Abu Rushd was a teacher in the truest sense. He taught values to his students and gathered knowledge from everyone around him," added awardee Khushi Kabir.

Well-wishers, family and friends of Abu Rushd, along with literature enthusiasts, were present at the event, among others.

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

Rubina Akhter's month-long solo art exhibition, *Mystery & Light*, is underway at Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria, Gulshan. The talented artist, who has a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, has worked as an interior, fashion and *Nakshi Kantha* designer. All of these experiences have been highlighted in the content, style and presentation of the exhibited artworks.

At the opening ceremony of the exhibition held on January 31, the artist said that both her mother and 'Mother Nature'

were significant sources of inspiration and catalysts in creating her paintings. "There are many activities I was involved in, but my mother always told me to keep drawing pictures," she says. The theme in many of her paintings highlight the irrefutable bond one has with nature in our country, especially women.

The subjects of her paintings are mostly feminine figures, which are drawn and decorated in her individualistic style. She makes use of line art and intricate designs, which resemble *nakshi kantha*, and the folk art styles of Bangladesh. The artist makes



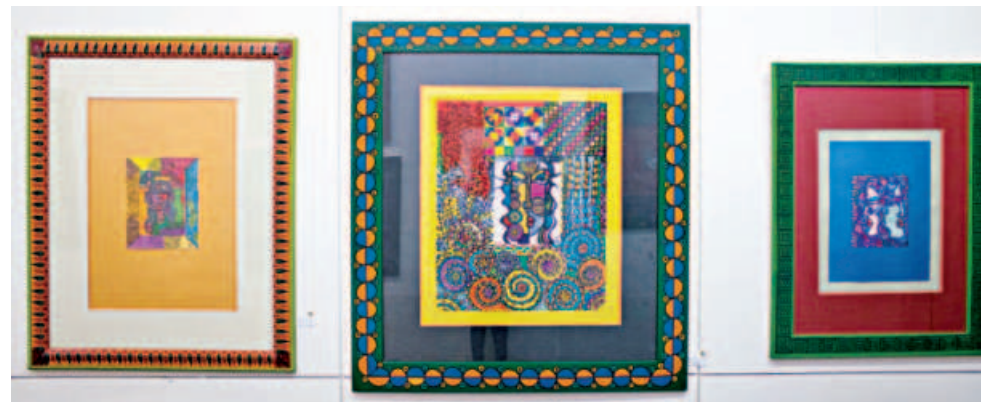
def use of delicate and detailed patterns juxtaposed with loosely outlined figures. The use of colour in her artworks is also bold, which represents her personality as a woman, as well as the vibrance of Bangladeshi lifestyle.

What sets Akhter's exhibition apart is her choices in framing the artworks. The medium sized drawings and paintings are presented amidst large textured backgrounds in solid colours. Additionally, the frames are also painted with bright colours and patterns. This unique trait forces the viewer to observe the painting from a slight distance, the act of which reveals a different perspective and a more overwhelming emotion can be drawn upon.

The respected artist says that her experience in working in different fields and travelling, especially her work, as an interior designer has made her more conscious of the external factors which influence the perception of her artwork. It is not merely the subject on paper or canvas that has the duty of making a powerful expression, but the surrounding environment as a whole.

The themes highlighted in the artworks range across togetherness, friendship, beauty, strength, courage and interaction with regards to women's lives. The messages appear to be whimsical, yet possess the ability to make one reflect upon their own life and those around them.

Amidst a variety of existing art practices and styles, Rubina Akhter's solo exhibition succeeds in stamping her unique style, which is likely to create an impact on any enthusiastic art lover. The exhibition will continue for a month.



PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA