

Dhaka Day by Day

Leaving it to the Imagination

By Fayza Haq

Hasan Mahmud, who recently had his exhibition of 58 entries at La Galerie, says about his work, "If I identify my subject by putting titles I feel you cannot expand your experience and imagination. I might put grey and red in a form. As it is semi-abstract you can dwell on it and it can stand for numerous images, thoughts and experiences."

He adds, "For an artist it gives more pleasure to depart from the grammar of realism. The application of colour pigments and textures should not confine itself necessarily to an easily recognisable subject and theme."

Talking about his technique, Hasan explains, "There is not much opportunity to work leisurely with water-colour. Every stroke has to be applied with surety. In other media it is different — you can change line and colour with mood. In experimenting with texture I have rejected the tube and cake colour and used powder instead. I used a lot of water: sometimes I simply poured water over the paper. I then scattered the powder and later worked on the piece with the brush."



Personal Feeling and Hasan Mahmud (inset)

"When the form took patterns of images, I left it at semi-abstract. Something I painted could be a fish or a flower or a landscape or even a seascape. I do not work in elaboration of details. I do not want too much of realism as I feel then that the charm of the painting will be over. I feel that despite the humdrum of life and the pressure of work, I have managed to keep my colours soothing. Even though the viewers may not be able to completely understand the meaning behind my paintings yet these water-colours will give joy to the viewer and make it worth while visiting the gallery, or keeping the paintings as decoration pieces at home."

Dwelling on his technique, Hasan continues, "Nowadays, these are few exhibits of water-colour. The reason is that it is difficult to handle. That is why people move on to oil, acrylic, mixed-media, print etc. Unless you work continuously on water-colour you can-

not succeed. With other media, on the other hand, you can work according to your mood."

Hasan had a low sale turnover at the gallery this time. About this he comments frankly, "Yes, I would like to sell my paintings but it would not break my heart if I have to wait for an auction or a Christmas sale. There are still no real collectors in Bangladesh. The sale has to be through contacts. The experts remain the genuine enthusiasts of our work. Getting an ambassador or such influential persons to open your work helps in a sale. I got Rafiqun Nabi and Mustafa Monower to open my show as I admire them intensely."

Asked as to who inspired him, Hasan says frankly, "In today's society people are not there to back you up: you have to build up your own confidence."

Talking of how he made a living, Hasan elaborates, "I teach at a school and that ensures my bread and butter. O level and architecture students come to us. Earlier there were only as many as five students a year for the 'O' level, but today there are 80 a year throughout Dhaka. So, I feel I am doing something worth my while."

Commenting on the recent Bienalle, Hasan adds, "The positive side is that it brings in a lot of contemporary experimentation to the view of the local painters, who in their turn, get inspired to do something new."

Giving his view of the state of art in Bangladesh, the painter comments, "I feel that the Bangladeshis are doing a good job of projecting our culture overseas. I think, at times, they are as good as most other Asian artists, judging from an international level. In sculpture, however, we have lagged behind."

Summing up his works, Hasan concludes, "Most of the paintings are termed *Personal Feelings* — I am not confining the viewer to my dreams, experiences or viewpoints. I want the onlooker to find his or her own pleasure and meaning in my works."

Hasan's works have been exhibited in Tokyo and Paris.

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
বিদ্যুৎ বিল নিয়মিত
পরিশোধ করুন

কাজের নামঃ বরিশাল বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহের আওতাধীন রূপতলীস্থ ৮ (আট) ইউনিট বিশিষ্ট টিনসেড স্ট্রাক কোয়ার্টার এবং ৪ (চার) ইউনিট পাকাবরণ। ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতাঃ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের তালিকাভুক্ত ক, খ ও গ শ্রেণীর সিভিল ঠিকাদারগণ। প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয়ঃ ৯,৩৩,২৮৪/৪৪ (নয় লক্ষ তেত্রিশ হাজার দুইশত চুয়াশি টাকা চুয়াশি পয়সা)। দরপত্রের মূল্যঃ ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।

পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ডাফট আকারে উপ-পরিচালক, হিসাব, আঞ্চলিক হিসাব দপ্তর, বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, বরিশালের অনুকূলে। দরপত্র প্রাপ্তিস্থান ও তারিখঃ প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, বিতরণ, পশ্চিমাঞ্চল, বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, খুলনা/তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, পরিচালন ও সংরক্ষণ সার্কেল, বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, বরিশাল/ ব্যবস্থাপক, অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, চকবাজার শাখা, বরিশাল হইতে আগামী ২৯-১১-৯৫ইং পর্যন্ত। গ্রহণ ও খোলার তারিখঃ ৩০-১১-৯৫ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা এবং ত্রিদিনই বেলা ১২-৩০ মিনিট। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য সকল যাবতীয় নিয়মাবলী অবশ্যই পালন করিতে হইবে।

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AD TRADE



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