room was invariably flooded with flowers of all kinds. "I put them in shampoo or minarel water bottles and painted day and night — the painter tries to explain his bond with the botanical delights. "There are some flowers that sleep all day and wake up at night. Many times I woke up at the dead of the night and started to paint".

Khalid confesses that he has let his imagination run wild in this series. For instance, there is a small painting of a single flower. Using that particular plant as a central focus on a huge canvas Khalid has presented a breathtaking creation.

Another picture displays a vase tilted in 45 degree angle from which multicoloured flowers are falling out in all directions. He has interesting interpretations for most of his works. To the visitors, the vase of red roses with just one yellow rose, might seem simple enough. But the artist portrays it as the odd man out in any social group. "I don't really work on pre-determined themes or concepts, they just come to me later on" — Khalid explains.

Speaking of mediums, Khalid has preferred hand made products like bright red, blue, green and yellow paper made of paper pulp for his collection.

Like most artists, Khalid too has painted a series of works on our Liberation War — illustrating the atrocity and painful realities that are associated with it. "I did the paintings right after the death of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975" — begins the painter" It was a frustrating time. For some reason, the construction work of Aparajeo Bangla got stopped. The only way I could express my tumultous feelings was through my paintings." Sadly, most of his works on 1971 are now in a terrible condition. Khalid has displayed a few of his earlier works at Gallery 21. Those curious, have the opportunity to study his moving paintings and get an insight in to Khalid's works. A meloncholy painting of howling dogs demands the visitor's attention. The human figure has taken the form of a stream of blood in his portrayal of the agony of War. Another shows nude women standing in a daze, by the Faiz lake in Chittagong, where the Pakistan army had set up camp.

Besides Aparajeo Bangla, his other sculptures include — Angikar in Chandpur, Angkur in Tongi and Dolphin at the Chittagong Naval Academy. He had organised a sculpture exhibition in 1989 in Chittagong but has no immediate plans for holding another. Says Khalid, getting sponsors and adequate space make it difficult to arrange a sculpture exhibition in this country. For the art enthusiasts in Dhaka, Khalid's 16 day long exhibition is indeed a rare treat. One can only hope that we don't have to wait too long to see more of this brilliant artist's works. ■



One of Khalid's earlier works on the War of Liberation