

exhibition

Drawing out Beauty from Simplicity

Jamal Ahmed's 43rd solo exhibition opens at the Divine Art Gallery

By Fayza Haq

Jamal Ahmed whose 43rd solo exhibition opened yesterday at the Divine Art Gallery has once again captivated his viewers with his



Jamal Ahmed

charcoal and acrylic work. Jamal goes in for these mediums as they are easy to preserve in our tropical climate and also simple to handle rather than the expensive oils.

As his old friend Kuhu puts it, drawing is not something easy to come by, specially when this presents details of human figures. Jamal's drawing has more than a 3-D impact and does more than simply decorate or illustrate. He has live models, who sit for him at the rate of Tk 100 for a day's work and he adds his vivacity and romance to the delineation of the simple poor. With the layers of horizontal washes that he puts, using charcoal and acrylic, he presents his old, wrinkled men and bronze skinned young women with great sincerity and flare. He applies his white paints as an undercover and over that earthy colours like brown and orange dance with great vitality. The final effect has a pearly glaze. In each picture you have the lure of realism that is so difficult to find in an artist's of his experience and standard.

He does not find life easy as an artist, and complains that he must make quick sales and certainly has no regular patronage to lean on as did the artists of the Renaissance period in Europe.

Also, he has to buy his charcoal and paints overseas and is lucky that he gets the opportunities to go to places like USA and Japan. Also, he says that when local awards are made it is always the same known faces who get the prizes or those who have manipulated with the authorities. There are many who have won awards in Bangladesh and who yet do not do anything remarkable in their later lives," he says. He combines his teaching at the Institute of Fine Arts with free lance painting and must work late into the nights. Also, he does not rely on photographs when he does his landscapes and insists on spending a lot of time in the countryside in order to bring depth in his work for the past 12 years. Again, live models are not easy for him to get, although, in his work he brings beauty even from out of wrinkles



Man behind smoke, A crylic, 2000

and sagging waistlines. He comments that they follow the same syllabus as in Calcutta but recently there have been moves to modify this. He says

however, as in our neighbouring country there are many more artists for that country is so much more vast than that of ours. "The way to success is to make more and more paintings, and the students are not correct when they say that they are not getting enough attention from their teachers. The situation is not much more different in other developed countries.

Jamal's "Girl with the dove" is remarkable indeed as the artist has brought in so much of beauty with just black and white and some texture work. This won a prestigious in the recent local biennale. His "Man behind the smoke" brings in the appeal of an old man's face as he enjoys his cigarette. His "Face" also draws out the beauty in a homely face despite the double chin and the dark marks on the face.

pain and express it, so that the new generation can try and understand what we all went through in 1971.

However once in a while a few people do come up with the initiative to depict the contribution of these women, and all others in our war. Women & War, premiered in the city on Thursday, is one of those few.

The screening of the video documentary on the role of women in 1971 Liberation War was organised by AIN O Salish Kendro a legal aid forum, at the British Council Auditorium on Nov. 16. Tareque and Catherine Masud two noted short filmmakers, directed the film. These two film makers have already earned a name for themselves following the making of "Muktir Gaan" and "Muktir Katha" two documentaries made on the theme and events of the War of Independence. AIN O Salish Kendro also demands due kudos for their role in the making of this film. The documentary Narir Katha, or Women and War is a joint production of ASK and Audiovision.

The documentary has been designed to project upon the valiant role played by Bangladeshi women during the country's bloody struggle for independence in 1971. To

enlighten the magnanimity of the sacrifice they made for the country; the violation and humiliation they had to undergo and their ultimate fate in the post-liberation period have been the concerns dwelt upon in the film. Men's victory in the war has been sung and glorified but women's participation in the quest of freedom; their supreme sacrifice; and the havoc they survived has not been recognised in the way it should have been.

Women's dishonour for the cause of country's freedom was later treated as shame instead of glory. As such society failed to nourish those valiant women to whom we all are indebted as to their male co-warriors. Women's contribution, either direct or indirect, has to be brought to the forefront to at least recognise them if

not to compensate them.

A number of case studies compiled up in the documentary tell the tale of millions others known, undiscovered and lost in oblivion.

The screening of the documentary was preceded by a brief discussion by the project Director of AIN O Salish Kendro.

Suraiya said that women had taken part in liberation war in different ways. Their part in the nine-month long struggle had been recorded to some extent but was not wholly compiled in any way as compared to the rest of the historical records we find of others in the war. This has rightly caused resentment in them.

rural people tell the stories of their independent struggle against the Pakistani occupation force. They reproduce how dearly women paid for the country's freedom. One village woman, who

was mute with the shock at the loss of her husband in the war, speaks more than any one else. Though she is dumb her helpless signs tell the stories enough to move any human heart and tell them more than others.

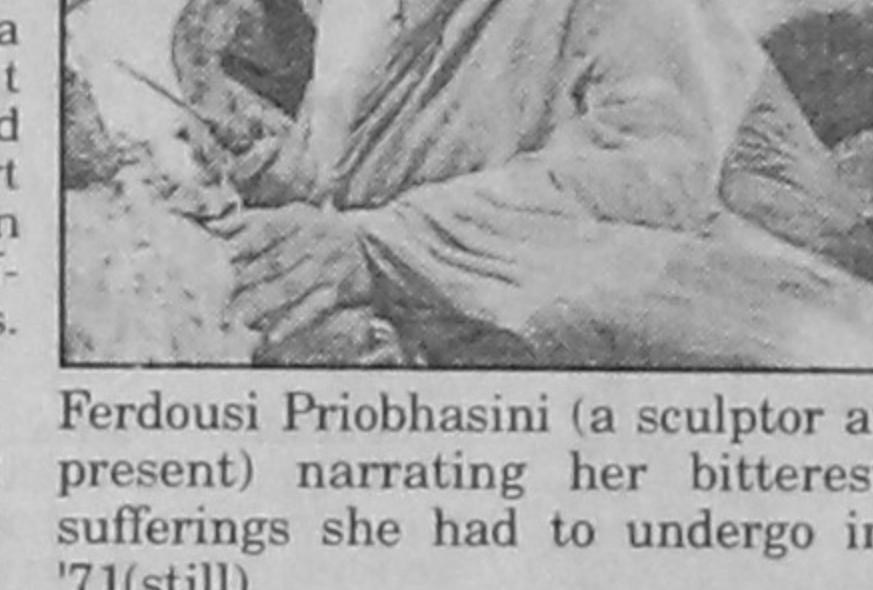
"We are planning to release the issue of their loss at the international war tribunal," she said.

Nineteen case studies were conducted and the reports have been compiled in a book that is going to be launched soon. Suraiya remarked that conducting these case studies was in itself a painful experience since to only hear what these neglected women have gone through and what injustice has been done to them was simply unbearable. These women still shrink in shame while recollecting the humiliation and violation of their womanhood in the hands of the barbaric Pak army and their collaborators.

Suraiya also said that there are different dimensions to war and many facts and history are still undiscovered. This documentary film is an outcome of a part of the research work on the liberation war being conducted by ASK.

Catherine Masud, while speaking on the occasion, said, "this documentary is a compilation of women's experience that they encountered in the 71 liberation war. It's a comprehensive representation of the war experience of the women who survived the violence and trauma of the war."

The title of the film Narir Katha, is an opt one in the sense that it not only speaks of the women but it lets women speak also. In the film sculptor Ferdousi, a Adivasi (tribal) woman and a group of



Ferdousi Priyobhasini (a sculptor at present) narrating her bitterest sufferings she had to undergo in '71(still).

against humanity. Through recording of such historical facts we mean to establish human values.

Tareque Masud said, "collective efforts are to be made in making documentary films. It has to be free of any political party affiliation to enhance their credibility."

A panel discussion followed the screening. The discussants comprised of Dr Nawsheba Sharifi, Misufil Hoque and Meghna Guha Thakurta. Nawsheba Sharifi told a story of women repression during the liberation war recollecting from her memory. Misufil Hoque said that the issue of war criminals is often talked about in the present day world. "Like the Nuremberg trial and Tokyo trial we must demand an international trial of the genocide in Bangladesh in the International War Tribunal.

Meghna highlighted elaborately about the possibility of holding a trial against the brutal Pakistani war criminals in the ICC.

The event ended with an open discussion and exchange of views on the documentary.

Recommendations



Artists of the New Millennium

Gallery 21 celebrates its 3rd founding anniversary with the group exhibition titled Artists of the New Millennium. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition started on November 17. The exhibition will bring together the works of all our exciting young painters.

Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general Bangladesh National Museum will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest while Professor Rafiqul Nabi and Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman were also present as special guests.

The exhibition will remain open from 10:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. till November 27.

Nattyakarmi Padak 1999

The yearly award giving ceremony by Loko Nattyakarmi Padak 1999 will be held at the Mahila Shamiy auditorium on November 20 at 6:45 p.m. This year the awarded personalities will be Abul Hayat and Humayun Faridi.

The awards will be presented by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and Shamsuzzaman Khan, Director General Bangladesh National Museum.

Doll Exhibition

A fortnight-long exhibition of Japanese dolls, organised by the Embassy of Japan, is being held at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy from November 10. The exhibition will remain open to all till November 25.

Monochromic Rainbow

The 5th solo exhibition by Md. Shaiful Islam titled Monochromic Rainbow has started at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. The artist will be exhibiting his oil paintings, photo paintings, sculptures, ceramics, photography and poems in the exhibition.

The exhibition will remain open everyday from 2 - 8 p.m. everyday till November 23.

documentary

Tribute to Our Women in the War

Video documentary by Tareque and Catherine Masud tells the traumatic story of women who were battered by the Liberation war in 1971.

By Tawfiq Ali

No one paid a bigger price in our War of Liberation as our women did. And their trauma only began there. They subsequently lost a place in society and suffered, in most cases for the rest of their lives. And the sad truth is that very few people attempt to document their



Young women receiving guerrilla training in 1971.(still from the documentary).

enlighten the magnanimity of the sacrifice they mad for the country; the violation and humiliation they had to undergo and their ultimate fate in the post-liberation period have been the concerns dwelt upon in the film. Men's victory in the war has been sung and glorified but women's participation in the quest of freedom; their supreme sacrifice; and the havoc they survived has not been recognised in the way it should have been.

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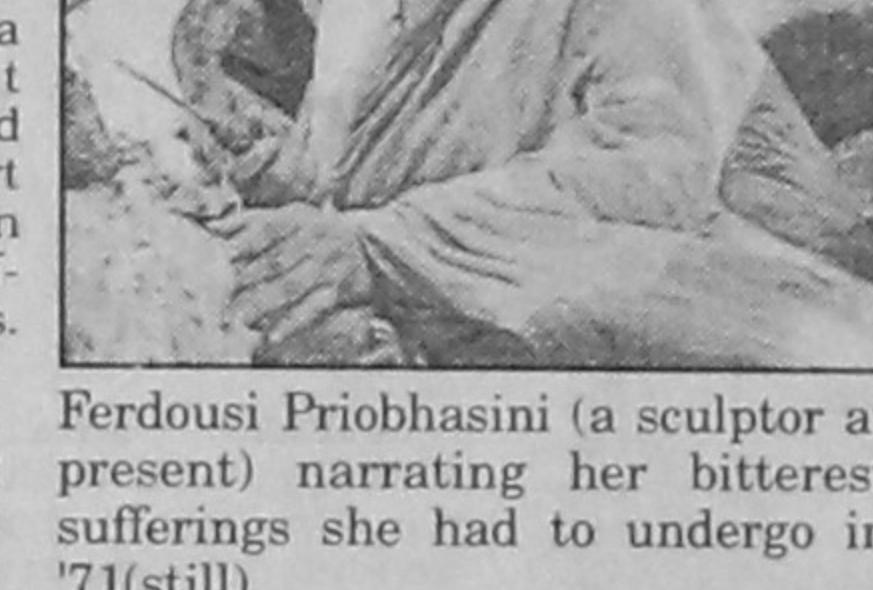
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TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



101 Dalmatians

Tonight on Star Movies at 10

In this classic tale of puppy love and dog-napping, the happy household of Dalmatians Pongo and Perdy (and their "human pets" played by Jeff Daniels and Joely Richardson) is thrown into a state of chaos when their new-born pups are stolen along with a brood of other Dalmatians from the London area. The fashionable fur-loving Cruella Devil (Glenn Close), is the likely suspect in the felonious scheme.

With Pongo, Perdy and a resourceful group of animal allies hot on the trail of the missing puppies, Cruella and her clumsy cohorts shift the action into high gear as this comical chase races to a cheering conclusion in this all-new live-action version of the animation classic. 101 Dalmatians Stars Glenn Close, Jeff Daniels and Joely Richardson.

Bros: Snow White 15 9:30; Starbiz 10:00 Sunday Night Previews: 101 dalmatians 6:30; For It! 7:30; Ushua 8:30; Wings 9:30; Crocodile Red Sonja 9:30; PG 2:00; Hunter's Croc Files 4:00; Western: The 10:30 Jaws & Claws II 5:30; Thriller: Jackals 5:30; Popular Mechanics 11:00; Snow White 15 10:30; Popular ARK: Tales of the

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

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Animal Rescue Kids 12:00; Splat IV 12:30; Lonely Planet V 1:30; Discovery Profile Series 7:30; Vital Breakthroughs 8:30; Lifeline 9:30; Web Week 10:30; Discovery Showcase 12:30; Vital Breakthroughs 1:30; Lifeline 2:30; Web Week 3:30; Discover Showcase 4:30; Discovery Profile Series 5:30; Discovery Magazine 6:00; Animal Rescue Kids 12:00; Splat IV 12:30; Lonely Planet V 1:30; Discovery Profile Series 7:30; Vital Breakthroughs 8:30; Lifeline 9:30; Web Week 10:30; Discovery Showcase 12:30; Vital Breakthroughs 1:30; Lifeline 2:30; Web Week 3:30; Discover Showcase 4:30; Discovery Profile Series 5:30; Discovery Magazine 6:00; Animal Rescue Kids 12:00; Splat IV 12:30; Lonely Planet V 1:30; Discovery Profile Series 7:30; Vital Breakthroughs 8:30; Lifeline 9:30; Web Week 10:30; Discovery Showcase 12:30; Vital Breakthroughs 1:30; Lifeline 2:30; Web Week 3:30; Discover Showcase 4:30; Discovery Profile Series 5:30; Discovery Magazine 6:00; Animal Rescue Kids 12:00; Splat IV 12:30; Lonely Planet V 1:30; Discovery Profile Series 7:30; Vital Breakthroughs 8:30; Lifeline 9:30; Web Week 10:30; Discovery Showcase 12:30; Vital Breakthroughs 1:30; Lifeline 2:30; Web Week 3:30; Discover Showcase 4:30; Discovery Profile Series 5:30; Discovery Magazine 6:00; Animal Rescue Kids 12:00; Splat IV 12:30; Lonely Planet V 1:30; Discovery Profile Series 7:30; Vital Breakthroughs 8:30; Lifeline 9:30; Web Week 10:30; Discovery Showcase 12:30; Vital Breakthroughs 1:30; Lifeline 2:30; Web Week 3:30; Discover Showcase 4:30; Discovery Profile Series 5:30; Discovery Magazine 6:00; Animal Rescue Kids 12:00; Splat IV 12:30; Lonely Planet V 1:30; Discovery Profile Series 7:30; Vital Breakthroughs 8:30; Lifeline 9:30; Web Week 10:30; Discovery Showcase 12:30; Vital Breakthroughs 1:30; Lifeline 2:30; Web Week 3:30; Discover Showcase 4:30; Discovery Profile Series 5:30; Discovery Magazine 6:00; Animal Rescue Kids 12:00; Splat IV 12:30; Lonely Planet V 1:30; Discovery Profile Series 7:30; Vital Breakthroughs 8:30; Lifeline 9:30; Web Week 10:30; Discovery Showcase 12:30; Vital Breakthroughs 1:30; Lifeline 2:30; Web Week 3:30; Discover Showcase 4:30; Discovery Profile Series 5:30; Discovery Magazine 6:00; Animal Rescue Kids 12:00; Splat IV 12:30; Lonely Planet V 1:30; Discovery Profile Series 7:30; Vital Breakthroughs