

exhibition

Women's Winning Ways in Colours and Compositions

A group exhibition featuring contemporary women artists of Bangladesh, now being held at Bengal Gallery, is a unique tribute to Begum Rokeya

By Fayza Haq

To commemorate the death anniversary of Rokeya Sakhat Hossain, who came into literary and cultural

scene of Bangal in the late nineteen century when women, particularly Muslim women, were uneducated and considered as low category human being, the Bengal Gallery had a splendid and opulent exhibition of 40



Mru dance oil on canvas Kanak Champa Chakma

women artists who have won distinction and acclaim on their own rights.

Their observation of various subjects differ but together they reflect a lively imagination and considerable dexterity at work.

Alka Mathur's "Bahu sandhar 11" is different from her collage work but contains the same vibrant colours of turquoise, orange, emerald and beige. She presents women at work surrounded by more figures bent over and covered in heavy gold and white veils. The garden where the women sit adds to the gem like effect with the scattered gold blossoms.

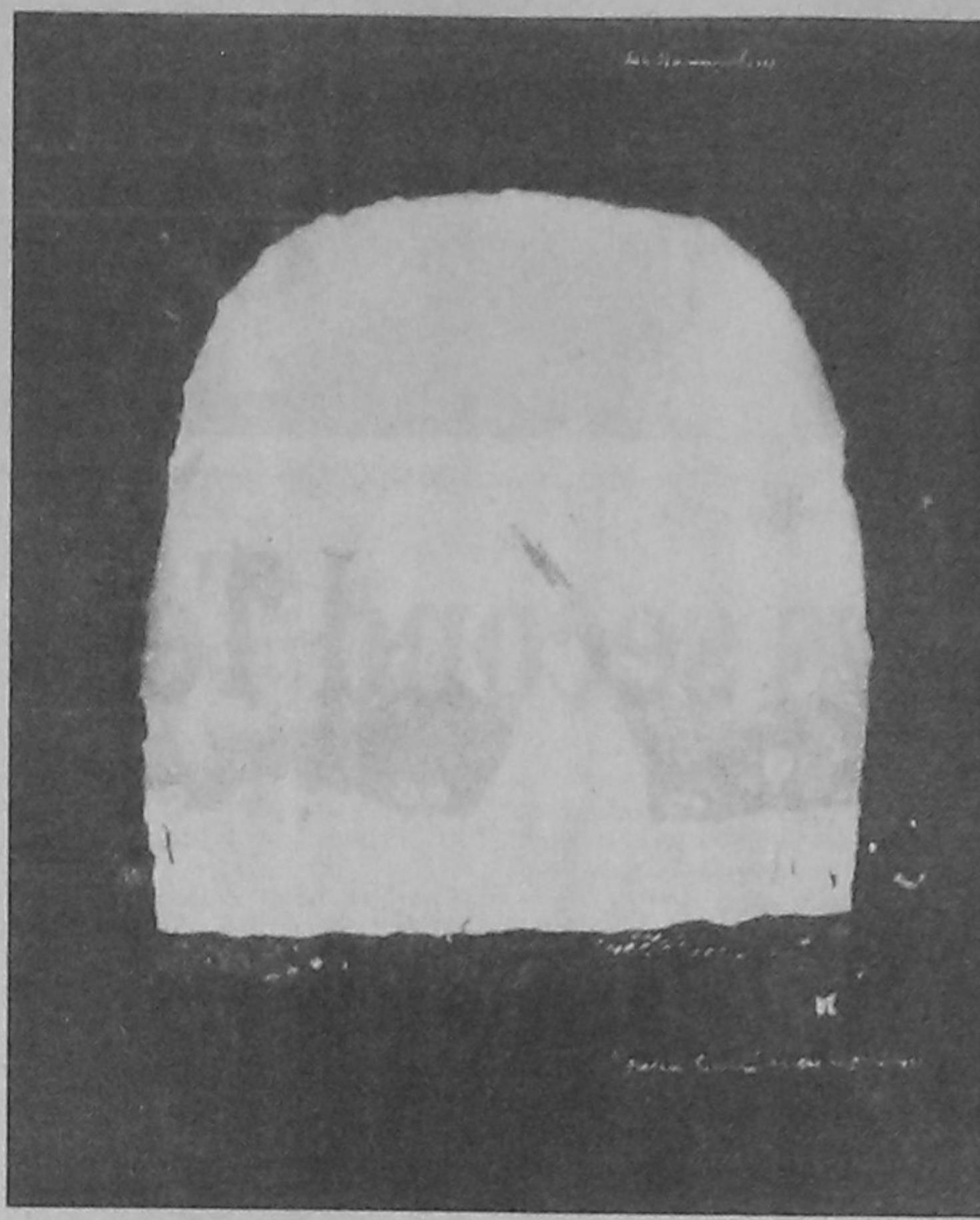
Akhtar Jahan Ivy's "Nature - 1" brings in a partially chopped block of wood from which you could imagine so many things in the forests that surrounds our villages.

Shamim Sikdar's "The real hero of Bengal" brings in an old man with a roman nose, sunken eyes and a massive curling beard in wood. Ferdousy Priyabhashini's driftwood "Full blossom" brings to mind flowers and leaves and adds to women's mastery in the world of sculpture.

"Dream of a fisherman" by Farida Zaman is another exotic piece in shades of gold, and orange, here we see the fishermen's nets along with yellow ochre suggestions of fish. This acrylic on canvas has layers of gentle shades and reminds you of the magic of watercolour with its lure of transparency. Equally fascinating is Ilse Hilpert's "To be a woman in Bangladesh" where installation work presents the stifling lives of Bangladeshi women confined to the four walls of their homes.

Bamboo poles and a rope hold the piece together where lines suggesting women and children plus some calligraphy represent the women's reflect the less than satisfactory existence of the country's female population. In contrast is the mixed media by Rokeya Sultana called "Image". This is a highly presentation of the Bangladeshi countryside with its buzzing gentle insects like dragonflies and the scattered pollen in the waves of rain water. The blue, yellow and gray splashes dots and lines present Rokeya's fancy for naive school of painting.

Exotic and highly imaginative is Nasreen Begum's "Reality 1" in watercolour. Here the face of a beautiful woman is covered with cactus plants with blossom with star-burst like gold flowers. Nasreen believes that women's lives in Bangladesh is always



Reality 1 watercolour Nasreen Begum

infested by pain and suffering, which the cacti stand for. Deep blue, green and yellow complete this creation and brings in the deepening evening lights in the background.

If you go in for simplicity, you have just to turn to Nalma Haque's "Together" which is in acrylic and brings together a pair in the style of cave paintings, with lines completing the figures as well as the bow and arrow that the male figure flaunts.

In contrast is the exotic and enchanting work of a much younger artist, Laila Sharmin, who has presented dreams and reality in her "Madam Sosostris's access is prohibited". Here delicate flowers on a delightful yellow field along with hints of a figure in white, touched with vermillion completes the composition enveloped in dramatic black.

Equally mind-boggling is Kulu's "Woman with a veil" which presents a woman in a "burkha" holding on to a chair. The lower half of the garment is suggested just as is also the chair. Although done in charcoal this work is



Woman with a veil charcoal Kulu



Madam Sosostris access is prohibited watercolour Laila Sharmin

delectable.

Shameem Subrana's "Untitled" in mixed media brings a magical mixture of colours and shapes in abstract in mixed media. Shades of brown rub shoulders with vermillion and ochre and presents an image that appear like some bejeweled Assyrian sheet of bronze.

The tribal life of the Chittagong Hill Tracts is also included in the extravaganza of women artist. "Mu dance" which is oil on canvas presents the details women dancers with their heavy silver jewellery and short dark shirts tied at the waist with vermillion bands. The background is also included in this in blue and black creation touched with white and orange.

The exhibition projected women artists as never before. A repeat performance of this in the near future would be only too welcomed.



Full blossom root Ferdousy Priyabhashini

Recommendations



Bangla Faces

Together with the Goethe Institut, Dhaka and Drik gallery a workshop on photography with renowned German photographer Thomas Lütte will start at the Goethe Institut on November 30.

This is the second workshop of this kind by Lütte in Dhaka. This year he will be conducting the workshop within the framework of the 'Chobi Mela', the first photography festival in Asia. The workshop will come to an end on December 11.

Exhibition on Liberation

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Liberation War, the Liberation war museum has organised a month long exhibition titled "Gourobnoy Amanan Chiro Jagorok". On this occasion the remaining found in the killing fields of Jalladkhana and Nur Majid and some photographs will be exhibited.

The exhibition will start on December 1 at 3.00p.m. at the museum.

Krishti

The preview of their apparel exhibition of uniquely Deshi fabrics steeped in heritage for both men and women started at the Drik gallery on November 23.

The exhibition will remain open for everyone from 3.00p.m. everyday till December 2.

Commemorative discussion

A commemorative discussion will be held on late Professor Abdur Razzak and his life and work on December 1 at 10 a.m. at the T.S.C. of Dhaka University. The chairman of Abdur Razzak Foundation, Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman will preside over the programme.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Shakespeare in love

on HBO at 10 pm

An Academy Award winner for Best Picture and Best Actress (Paltrow, Seven Sliding Doors), this picture has also been honored in the Golden Globes and on many critics' top ten lists the year it was released. And it is easy to see why an incisive screenplay by Marc Norman and playwright Tom Stoppard as well as a stellar cast: besides Fionn, Paltrow and Affleck, there is Academy Award winner Geoffrey Rush (Shine) and renowned British actress Judi Dench, who steals every scene she is in as Queen Elizabeth. Set in 1590, Fionn is a rising young star in London theatre by the name of William Shakespeare. Starring Joseph Fiennes, Gwyneth Paltrow

BBC WORLD
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