

Exhibitio

Understanding the mood of summer

Moni Hossain's summer collection at Altamira Fashion Gallery speaks the language of fun and upbeat mood

MUNEERA PARBEEN

SUMMER is a season for colours and colours are aplenty in Moni Hossain's designer clothes. Her collection of chiffon and georgette, tissue and silk in an array of design is an immaculate combination of craftsmanship and imagination.

Moni mixes and matches tastefully with traditional methods of block print, embroidery and painting to give a festive touch to all her clothes. Her ensembles are essentially a celebration of life, youth and fun and are always fit for the best parties in town.

This week Moni has opened her summer collection for 2001 at the Altamira Gallery at Dhanmondi. She has once again come up with a collection hat is fit for ages in any body's wardrobe.

The colours dominant in her collection for this summer is whites, yellows, light blues, mint and blushing scarlet with brighter shades of the same for nightwear. Her designs are essentially for party wear, and in keeping with her theme of pieces that will last for a while in the transition of fashions, Moni has once again used silks, chiffons, georgettes in addition to cotton that remains a favourite for summer.

Sarees for evening wear are best on silk, this young designer says and her entire collection is dominated by locally woven silks, especially pieces of Rajshahi silk. These she has dyed in different shades of colours at time, or decorated with brush paint. The effect is hues of different shades, sometimes in continuous stretches of colour, sometimes like droplets as the dew drops of the early morning. The finishing touches to these pieces of art are sometimes patches of Muslin or tissue sewed on with machine embroidery, or simply a collection of tube block at other times. Moni treats each piece of saree like a canvas on its own, weaving her stories with her paint brush. The body of the saree is often a light background of colour where the anchal is heavily decorated with



A pale saree with a detailed anchal and border



A lime green saree with fish motifs on the border



A hand painted salwar-kameez ensemble in contrasting colours.

detailed painting or patch work. On other pieces Moni has made the whole body of the saree very bright, with large motifs and the anchal then is just an extension of the work on the body.

Moni has also used locally woven tissue material, which she introduced in her last Eid collection. This material, slightly different in texture than other imported varieties available in the market, is lighter and comes in shades of mint in her exhibition. The sarees are decorated with large motifs of flowers.

A piece that stands out among her display at the gallery is a lime saree with large fishes painted on the borders. This saree is definitely for the young. Other interesting pieces include a white cotton saree with a golden border with very pale branches of flowers drawn along its body. This saree is a painter's delight and just the right piece to turn heads anywhere one goes in it.

Another cotton white saree with a black border, also a hand painting item, is equally refreshing and fit for

a hot summer's day. Among Moni's cotton pieces, most are paintings on handloom saree pieces from Tangail. Each has a woven border, typical of Tangail handlooms, the colour of which is set off with the block print and painting on the saree.

The other part of exhibition is of salwar kameez ensembles. Moni has designed three pieces for women in georgette, chiffon, tissue and cotton. The salwar kameez pieces in her summer collection are

not very different from her earlier pieces, but again are tasteful in their combinations of paint, block and spray work. Her dresses are essentially colourful and meant for party wear.

A new addition to them are the tissue dresses with somber bodies set off by brightly coloured dupattas. The colour combinations are loud, cheerful and creative.

Moni Hossain, also a founder of the Altamira Fashion House and Fashion Gallery, has also organised

a competition for young and budding designers of the town. The Gallery has announced a fashion designing competition. Interested designers are to sent in five dresses designed by them using local materials. A committee of ten will judge the final entries and the winning dresses will form the next exhibition of the Gallery. Entry forms are available at the Altamira Fashion Gallery at Dhanmondi and the last date for sending in entries is May 31.

The aim of the exhibition, she

explains, is to discover budding designers who will take part in a three month long workshop on designing. The idea is to give the young designers a hand and guidance at entering the professional competition of designing. The gallery is essentially to promote works of local designers, and this competition is the first of many such ventures, she said.

Moni's summer collection will remain on show for all at the gallery Road #2 till May 31.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Comics

A comics exhibition titled *La bande dessinée contemporaine en France* (Contemporary comic strip in France) will start at the Alliance Française de Dhaka on May 13. A series of 24 posters with extracts of contemporary comics as well as stamps of the French post using characters of the strip cartoon will be displayed at the exhibition. The exhibition will be open to the public till May 27.

CD Launching

The launching ceremony of a music CD titled *Nadi Boye Jaye* will take place today at 5:00 p.m. at Panda Garden, Mahakali.

Theatre

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has organised a week-long theatrical shows from May 6 to 12 at Shawkat Osman Auditorium of the National Public Library Directorate, Shahbag. Seven theatre groups from across the country are due to take part in the programme. It will come to an end today.

Photography Show

A solo photography exhibition by Albert Khan is now being held at Arial Centre, House # 15, Road # 7, Dhanmondi. The show will come to an end today at 8:00 p.m.

Satyajit Ray Retrospective

Satyajit Ray Retrospective organised by Zahir Raihan Film Society is now being held at the auditorium of the High Commission of India at Road No. 2, Dhanmondi. Screening schedule: Seemabaddha (Company Limited) and Jana Aranya (The Middle Man) on May 12 at 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. respectively. Shatranj Ke Khilari (The Chess Players) and Ganashatru (An Enemy of the People) on May 25 at 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. respectively. Shatkhara Prashakha (The Branches of the Tree) and Agantuk (The Stranger) on May 26 at 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. respectively.

TV GUIDE

BTB	8:00	Din Protidin	8:25	Pepsi Live Concert	9:00	Opening Announcement	10:40	Abriti ar Kazi Arif	12:30	Main Zinda Hoon (Deepti Naval, Pankaj Kapur)	3:00	GeetBazar	3:30	Durgesh Nandini (Nalini Kaywant, Ajit, Bina Rai)	7:00	Tarqeeb (Mithun Chakraborty, Shakti Kapoor)	6:30	The Seventh Sign	8:30	Born Free	10:30	The Pelican Brief	1:30	The Third Miracle	4:00	Godzilla	4:45	The Last Boy Scout	9:00	The Street 04: Closet Cases	6:30	The Bold & The Beautiful	7:30	Things People Do	2:00	Tu Tu Main Main	2:30	Comedy: No Looking	2:30	Comedy: No Revenge Of	4:30	The Nerd	6:30	Action: Felons	11:30	Hit Ya Fit	7:00	Thrillenium : Bloody Murder	8:30	Action: Fight Club	4:30	Ripley's Believe It or Not (Season 1)	5:30	Rollerjam	5:00	Original Sound Track	5:30	Music Zone	7:30	Unfinished Business	3:00	Silk Stalkings VII/ Slip-Up	4:00	Benny Hill Show	4:30	Too Close For Comfort	5:00	Latterman	7:00	Hit Pe Hit	8:30	Zee Music Com	9:30	Zee Music Box	10:00	Jharokha	10:30	Zee Music Live/Cool	11:00	Bhakti Geet	7:30	Amrit Kalash	8:00	Jai Ganesh	9:00	Nickelodeon	9:30	Nickelodeon	10:00	Guldsta	10:30	Film Chakkar	11:00	Thief of Baghdad	12:00	Amanat	12:30	Khana Khazana	1:00	Zee & You	1:25	Jhalak	1:30	Whirl Pool Mera	2:00	Yeh Hai Mumbai Meri	3:00	Gudgudee	3:30	Rishety The Love Stories	4:00	Naye Nazrane	4:30	Antakshari	5:30	Aasman Se Tapki	6:00	Nickelodeon On Zee	6:30	Saregama	6:30	Jaan-Feature Film	11:30	Hamare Tumhare	12:00	Guldsta	12:30	Basera	1:00	Rishety The Love Stories	2:00	Yeh Hai Mumbai Meri	3:00	Gaane Anjane	3:00	Tikdmabaa	5:45	News In Hindi	6:30	Spanish League Highlights	7:30	English Domestic Club	8:00	Rugby Zurich	9:00	Championship	10:00	2001 Leicester, England Northampton	11:00	Saints @ Leicester Tigers	12:00	Semifinal	2:00	WTA Tour Family Circle Cup	3:00	Charleston, SC USA Semifinals	4:00	Formula One Qualifying 2001	5:00	Formula One Qualifying	6:00	NBA Inside Stuff	7:00	National Rugby League State of Origin New South Wales @ Queensland	8:00	Gillette World Sports Sports	9:00	Special Gillette 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