

Exhibition

East meets West

Ali Akbar, Bangladeshi artist settled in USA, holds his solo show at Gallery 21

AZIZ AMIRUL

MY sole pride lies in the fact that I am a Bangladeshi", says Ali Akbar, a US-based Bangladeshi painter, who holds his one-man show at the Gallery 21 in Dhanmondi. Entitled "H2O", the exhibition opens on Friday, September 21.

Born and brought up in Bangladesh, Ali, a 34-year-old young man, received his formal education in art from the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University and later graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and Collin County Community College, USA.

"I have gone through different phases of struggle in trying to cope with the lifestyle and values of the American society. But gradually things began to settle down and life started to offer its many splendours. I put up my solo exhibition at the Spectrum Gallery in downtown Dallas in 1991. Finding potential resource and probably some confidence, the Chairman of my department advised and helped me to join the Dallas Museum of Art in Texas where I am still working as visitor services assistant manager",



He & She: Mixmedia



Flow: Mixmedia



Intermingled: Mixmedia

said confident Ali.

The works of this artist seem to carry an entirely different form in the sense that, his pieces include subjects and topics coming from two different dimensions yet meeting and mingling

at the central venue of a canvas. Ali creates a sort of time-space dimension in most of his works bringing the past and the present life, certain personal expressions and experiences of his childhood days besides projecting

the jovial period of youth days. "Themes of my works are my childhood, youth and the present status of mine but certainly not the future. You may find a touch of spirituality blended with real-life attitudes and here lies my self-satisfaction. The world should exist not only with materialistic objectives rather maintain a well-balanced situation placing spirituality and reality side by side. We are all human beings despite our race or creed and proper love for humanity should arise above everything and permeate through everything", added Ali.

His themes predominantly deal with his personal notion of our liberation war and that of language movement. Some of the works like "Ballya Shikhy" and "Bornomola" depict his intense love for motherland and mother tongue.

"Though I have settled abroad I always feel a sense of emptiness in my soul and feel that I am being uprooted from my country and my people. America to me is a place where there are opportunities of some kind and an artistic freedom not to be found here but then again everything is quite artificial there. There is an inexplicable pain in my heart", said Ali Akbar.

Ali Akbar's sense of responsibility and dedication towards his work is certain to make him a great maestro in the days to come.

Akbar while discussing his works.

Ali finds great pleasure in observing and experiencing life through a bird's-eye view perspective trying to locate the aspects and customs of America, Bangladesh or Europe under one frame.

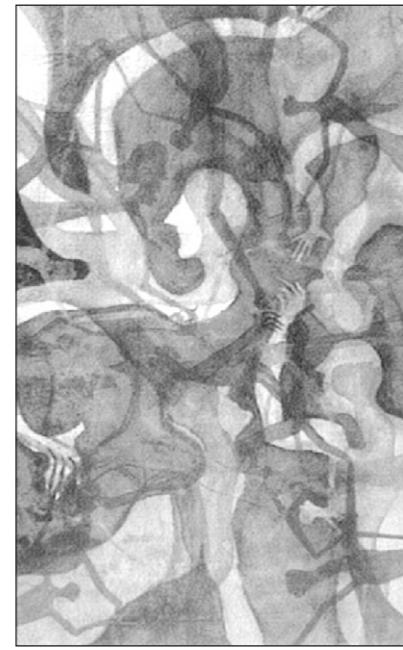
The eroticism and romanticism that we explore in the works are another important theme of this artist. His floating figures represent the psychological landscape of human emotions. The figures are found swimming among colours and textures that evoke the presence of cloud, sky, smoke or fog! The outstretched limbs attract each other depicting the necessity of connection and attraction between two or more adults in reality. In fact, the works involved with the theme of love and passion carry a sense of self-deception according to Ali. "In stages of my pictures, I find my childhood days, then my exuberating youth and finally the sense of maturity and success that I am experiencing at present", said Ali Akbar.

No doubt Ali is a sensitive artist trying to develop and highlight the concept of universal love for humanity, often with a touch of subtle aesthetic exuberance besides that of worldly pleasures and pains.

About his works on Liberation War



Celestial: Mixmedia



Bangladesh: Mixmedia

Echo: Mixmedia

RECOMMENDATIONS

30 years of Independence

To celebrate 30 years of Independence 'Ganer Dali' has organised a cultural evening at the National Museum on September 22 at 7:15 p.m.

Podatik

Podatik Natty Shonghad has organised a musical evening featuring the Rabindra singers of Bangladesh and India at the Indian Cultural Centre (754 Satmasjid Road) on September 20 at 4:55 p.m.

Six Seasons



Shilparag Gallery at Dhanmondi (House #15, Road #27) presents an exhibition on the theme six seasons. Leading artists of the country have captured in their canvas the rich variety of our seasons and their ambience. The month-long show will continue till October 14 everyday from 11 am to 8 p.m.

Photo-Exhibition: Germany 1945-1995.

Goethe Institute Dhaka holds a photo exhibition titled 'Germany 1945-1995' (Deutschland seit 1945), featuring fifty years of German history, on September 17 at House # 10, Road # 9, Dhanmondi R/A. The show runs from 2 to 8 p.m. every day, (except Fridays & Saturdays) till September 30.

Photo show

Renowned Bangladeshi portrait photographer Nasir Ali Mamun was all through with the German Nobel Prize Laureate Gunter Grass during his Dhaka visit in 1986. The exhibition, featuring the moments of Gunter Grass Nasir snatched with his camera is being held at the German cultural centre, Goethe institut, House # 10, Road # 9 Dhanmondi, Dhaka and runs through September 20.

TV GUIDE

BTV	
3:45	Swastha Tathy
4:00	Khabar
4:05	Cartoon Jumanji
4:20	Sukhi Paribar
4:40	Khelti Khetle computer
5:20	Magazine Prayas
5:45	Pushi Tathy
6:00	Khabar
6:10	Geet Bitan
7:00	News headlines
7:05	Unmesh
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Drama serial Bhalobashar Anek Rang (1 st episode)
9:00	News headlines
9:05	Monihar
9:30	Drama serial Path Theke Pathay
10:00	News in English
10:25	Sei Gan Guli
EKUSHEY TV	
12:00	Ekushey Midday
12:20	Bangla Film: Harano Sur
2:40	Drishit
3:00	Ekushey Headlines
3:05	Drama Serial: Jhor Bristir Nir
3:30	Drama Serial: Jononi
4:00	Khelay Khelay Chirontone
4:30	Drishit
4:50	Ajker Potrikay
5:00	Muktomoncho
6:00	Ekushey Headlines
6:05	Muktomoncho
6:30	Deshire Headlines
6:35	Charidike
6:55	Ekushey Headlines
7:00	Bolte Chai
7:30	Ekushey News
7:58	Ek Minute
8:00	Drama Serial: Bondhon
8:30	Drama Serial: Bongshogoti
9:00	Pother Pachile
9:30	Drama Serial: Sundoree
10:00	BTV News
10:30	Nirbachon Shanghai
11:00	Ekushey Nightly News
ATN	
3:00	Islamic Prog.
7:00	Musical Prog. ATN Music
7:35	Film Songs Cinematic
8:45	Drama Serial Uttran
9:20	Nirbachon-2001, ATN Banglar Mokhomukhi
9:55	Musical Prog. Gane Anonde
10:35	BNP Produced Election Programme Sabass Bangladesh
11:05	Awami League Produced Election Programme Joy Bangla Bangla Joy
9:00	Friends
9:30	The Drew Carey Show
10:00	Whose Line Is It Anyway?
10:30	You Pick The Flick Com:
11:00	Friends
12:00	Baywatch
1:00	Things People Do
1:30	The Bold and The Beautiful
2:00	Mork & Mindy
2:30	Happy Days
3:00	The Oprah Winfrey Show
3:30	NYPD Blue
4:00	Amul Bollywood News
4:30	Jawab (Jeetendra, Leena Chandavarkar)
5:00	Geet Bahar
5:30	Sansar (Agha, Pushpavalli)
6:00	Geet Bahar
6:30	Rang Bangla Chalta Purza (Rajesh Babi)
7:00	STAR GOLD
7:30	The Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00	STAR WORLD
8:30	The Oprah Winfrey Show
9:00	Swastha Tathy
9:30	Khabar
10:00	News headlines
10:25	Sei Gan Guli
ATN	
3:00	Islamic Prog.
4:00	The Simpsons
4:30	3 rd Rock From The Sun
5:00	Star News Asia
5:30	Friends
6:00	The Drew Carey Show
6:30	Whose Line Is It Anyway?
7:00	Top Ten
7:30	You Pick The Flick Com:
8:00	Friends
8:30	The Practice
9:00	The Drew Carey Show
9:30	Whose Line Is It Anyway?
10:00	Ally McBeal
11:00	Ally McBeal
12:00	The Drew Carey Show
1:00	Whose Line Is It Anyway?
1:30	Ally McBeal
2:00	3 rd Rock From The
HBO	
6:30	Patch Adams
6:45	MacArthur
7:15	Chances Are
7:30	St. Elmo's Fire
7:45	King Cobra
8:00	Epoch
8:15	Small Wonder
8:30	Kabibie Kabibie Mere Ghar Mein Bhuchal Aata Hai
8:45	Sangeet Toppers
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