

RECOMMENDATIONS

Solo Art Exhibition

The second solo painting exhibition of artist Zahir is being held at Jainul art gallery at the Institute of Fine Arts in the city. The weeklong exhibition ends on February 7, 2002. The exhibition is open for all everyday from 10:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m.

Art Exhibition

A solo exhibition of artworks by artist Nazia Andaleeb Preema is being held at the DRIK gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition continues till February 12, 2002. The exhibition is open for all everyday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday & Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Book Fair

Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, a three-week long book fair at the premises of Bangla Academy is in progress. The fair is open everyday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Etching Print Exhibition

A solo etching prints exhibition by Rashid Amin, a Charupith Fellow is continuing at Gallery 21. The exhibition will remain open till February 10 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Drama Festival

Natty Utsav 2002, the national festival of drama is going on at the Mahila Samity auditorium in the city. The festival will continue till February 20 organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation. The drama festival is featuring 'Natty Jalsa' after the staging of the theatrical productions, each evening. Each Jalsa includes cultural events performed by members of the theatre groups. Coinciding with the drama festival began the 'Street Drama Festival 2002' that will continue till February 7, 2002. 'Fair & Lovely Drama Festival 2002' is continuing at the Showkat Osman auditorium of Central Public Library. The weeklong festival has been arranged with the theme 'Reach for the Skies'. DESH NATAK has composed five of the seven theatrical plays of the festival.

Exhibition

Portraying Beautiful Bengal

Eight leading artists capture the quintessential Bengal in their canvas

FAYZA HAQ

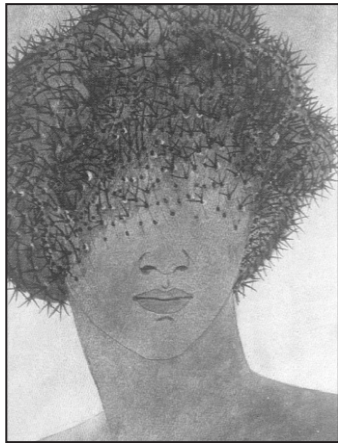
GALLERY Chitrak's "Labonnyae Bangladesh" brought in the works of eight artists Alakesh Ghosh, Jamal Ahmed to Sheikh Afzal, Muniruzzaman to those of Kanak Champa Chakma. The paintings were bouncing with colours and dazzling with their simplicity of forms and styles.

The art works were mostly impressionistic and realistic and varied from landscapes to portraits.

Alakesh Ghosh's memorable and stirring delineation of the countryside with boats were set apart by Jamal Ahmed's crayon presentation of starkly clad musicians with burnished skins and heaps of medals. To add the feminine touch were Nasreen Begum's delicate portrayals of women and nature and Kanak Champa Chakma's depiction of tribal women splendid in their heavy silver jewellery and bright flowers. Sheikh Afzal's horses and Rezaun Nabi's boats also went a long way to brighten the walls with depiction taken from everyday Bangladeshi life. Muniruzzaman's colour combinations completed the buoyant canvas.

In Jamal Ahmed's depiction of a weary musician we see an old man with sad eyes, straggling hair smoking a "hokkah" and flowing from his hand is a red drapery that falls to the front to dispel the darkness of the brown and black crayon used at will. Behind the sombre depiction of the dark man is a gray backdrop with some thumb prints along the forefront to balance the composition.

In his "Musician-3" we see an old musician resting on the ground with his violin at the side. He wears a simple "luggi" and a short "coatie" with coloured beads and shining medallions to set them off. There are bracelets on his wrists and rings on his fingers to heighten the gypsy look. While his shaggy hair is dark his beard and moustache have touches of gray. This too is with crayon and it is amazing how with only brown, with a touch of red, one



Work of Artist Nasreen Begum

can make such a moving picture of humanity.

Jamal's "Musician-1" is about tired man, brave with chains, medallions, carrying his musical instrument slung at the back, with a world-weary look on his face. His beard and moustaches bring in his age while the background is left white



Work of Artist Ahmed Shamsuddoha

which makes the portrait even more dramatic and moving. The lines have been put quickly but carefully unfolding a drama of the common people. In Jamal's "Girl", a mixed media, we see a thin young



Work of Artist Md. Muniruzzaman

women braiding her hair, while a part of her tresses fall to the side. The ribbon, pendant and details of her sari add to the beauty of the black beauty despite her frowning. The artist takes his models from everyday life and presents them as heroes and heroines of unsung tales with his subtle and dramatic strokes.



Work of Artist Sheikh Afzal

In Kanak Champa Chakma's "Lonely two", oil on canvas, brings in gold, blue and red shimmer in the backdrop of water and sky. The faces are suggested and so are the clothes and jewelry. "Mood" brings in



Work of Artist Alakesh Ghosh

three women standing and talking. The one in the centre has a band on her head while the rest of the figure is red except for the details of the faces which are sketched in bold black lines. Streaks of orange, yellow and blue form the wandering clouds around the figures that appear completely immersed in their idyllic life surrounded by untrammelled nature. Blue-gray is included to complete this composition of contentment to bring in the flowing stream at the side contrasting with the muddy red land, the same tint seen in the women. Kanak in this work is more modern in minimizing her forms and shapes.

In Kanak's "Ever green", mixed media on paper, we find yet another small group of women gossiping together. The figures are green like the background although their ribbon, hair and jewellery are brought in with single strokes of black or yellow. Sketches of cobalt blue and emerald green almost in triangular forms appear to float in different directions bringing in the pure environment of the Hill Tracts region. This too is truly successful experiment in simplification of landscape with figures.

Nasreen Begum's "Reality-1", acrylic, brings in a delectable young woman in blue who wears a crown of



Work of Artist Rezaun Nabi

cacti thorns. This is all in light washes of blue with pale pink for the cupid lips. The thorns on the head are touched with pale pink and light yellow. In "Reality-3" acrylic on canvas is similar portrayal of a beautiful woman with cacti for her hair symbolizing the agony and frustration in a woman's life. Her features are pencilled in while she has leaves growing around her neck. In the background are strips of ice-cream pink bearing white flecks.

Muniruzzaman's "Harmony" in water colour has curls, lines, and other poetic twisting forms in pink, yellow and white, touched with black. Both the background and foreground have shades of yellow. This abstract piece, perhaps representing nature, is different from the other entries in the exhibition as it does not aspire for impressionism or realism. Similarly his "Composition-4", similarly, could stand for flowers contained in the falling gray combined flamingo pink touched with other colours of nature.

In Shamsuddoha's "Path" the brings in an overcast sky with blue mountains in the backdrop with laden trees in front of them. In land is brought in front with intermingling sweeps of brown, green, black and white whose geometrical forms are juxtaposed carefully with each other.



Work of Artist Jamal Ahmed

His "Landscape" brings in people sitting on mustard fields. Behind are thatched hay piles and houses with gray tops. Beyond them are silhouettes of trees with thick foliage and tall palms. The sky at the back is bare with beige white. Its foreground brings more land and some water. Both these oil on canvas. These represent our countryside with conventional clarity.

Shamsuddoha's "Dhaka" is a sketch of people hurrying in their rickshaws and cycles. The buildings at the side are sketched in delicately with the details of the lentils, walls and windows. Overhanging wires lend more delicacy to the composition which is fresh despite the conventional theme. His "Landscape" brings in two women collecting tea and done in gentle pinks and subtle beige.

Rezaun Nabi's "Bandarban" again brings a pleasing presentation of our country with blue, green and brown. The trees are subtle suggestions of gray and blue while the houses are impressions in variations of black and gray, touched with delicate pink and pristine white. The boats are seen going past. Rezaun's "Landscape" bring two people crossing a path with the mustard fields in the vicinity. The rest of the fields are a variation of green, blue

and purple. There are shades of rolling blue and gray in the darkening purple sky overhead. His "Moheshkhali" depict our traditional boats, done in simple blue and black with hints of red and yellow, shown as carrying passengers. Multicoloured fluttering flags and bunks are included in the composition.

Sheikh Afzal's "Gallop horses" show horses speeding ahead against a background of gold and beige. Only the faces, necks and hooves of the horses along with the face of the rider are to be spotted. These are done in pink, black and gray. Speed is suggested both in the background and the movement of the horses. In Afzal's "Buriganga" we see boats with people seen somewhere to the left, bending down and collecting their belongings. The barges have many stories on them at times while some simple basic boats are also included in the composition. The house at the back is an impressionistic representation of a palatial bungalow.

All in all, Labonnyae Bangladesh is a treat for gallery-goers.

International



Singer Mariah Carey performs "The National Anthem" on February 3, 2002 at the Louisiana Superdome before Super Bowl XXXVI in New Orleans, Louisiana. The St. Louis Rams and the New England Patriots are playing for the NFL championship



Yuhui Choe, 17, of Korea competes in the contemporary variations category at the 30th Prix de Lausanne on February 3 in Switzerland. Choe is a prize winner of the competition for young dancers, who are given scholarships to world renowned dance schools



Members of the carnival group Wilflinger Schellenarren parade through streets of the southern German town of Sigmaringen on February 3, 2002. More than 5,000 carnival enthusiasts took part in the parade which was watched by more than 10,000 spectators along the streets

Movies

Sharply creased humour

Steven Soderbergh's *Ocean's Eleven* is a sassy, stylish and crisp as a wafer film, writes, Charu Soni

IT'S one of the oldest and most simple stories in the trade and Steven Soderbergh pulls it off with flamboyance of a master director. Sassy, stylish and crisp as a wafer, *Ocean's Eleven*, is a refreshing remake of Lewis Milestone's forgotten 1960 heist comedy *Ocean's 11*, starring Frank Sinatra and pals. It's also the least threatening film, as the director himself admits, to come out of his stable.

Gone is the stark clinical approach of the *Traffic*, which incidentally earned Soderbergh the coveted Best Director Oscar last year, and the drama of sexy siren with a cause' of *Erin Brokovich*, one of Julia Roberts' most successful films to date. What we have instead is a sparkling film where darker and meaner ideas give way to two hours of sharply creased humour.

The cast of star actors adds the needed punch to the tightly woven tale. Choice of George Clooney as film's 'ideal man', Brad Pitt the sex symbol of the millennium generation as 'the pro', Matt Damon, another Hollywood heartthrob as 'the rookie' and Andy Garcia as 'the target' is the kind of cast that could crumble the best of directors. Not so with Soderbergh who deftly meshes their acting styles to produce a 'brother-in-arms' tale of an improbably daring heist.

Clooney is the leader of the pack



George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Elliott Gould and Don Cheadle in Warner Brothers' Ocean's Eleven - 2001

as Danny Ocean the dashing honcho that disarms his opponents with sheer charm and deceptiveness. Just when you think he's bluffing his way, he surprises you with a wry smile that could swat a thousand hearts. Pitt tries to better him as Rusty Ryan, the roguish professional but ends up playing the second fiddle. The surprise of the pack that includes nine others is Damon who underplays his stars status to essay the role of side-kick

grifter, Linus Caldwell.

The trio together with Don Cheadle (as explosives expert Basher Tarr), Livingstone Dell (Eddie Jamison, the surveillance specialist) Elliot Gould (as flashy Reuben Tishkoff, the former Vegas hotel kippin); Carl Reiner as Saul Bloom (the ulcerous old pro) and four others set their eyes on Andy Garcia's (Terry Benedict) casino empire. The target, incidentally, is not ad hoc. Benedict we learn has



Julia Roberts and George Clooney in Warner Brothers' Ocean's Eleven - 2001

won over Danny's wife, Tess. We meet Danny on his way out on parole, and get introduced to the rat pack soon after. The action now moves to Las Vegas, where Benedict's empire flourishes. The men get down to plan the heist but not before Danny let's the plan down by trying to win Tess (Julia Roberts) back. Rusty and Linus now step in to call the shots and succeed in getting better of the slick and ruthless Benedict.

The films characters are delectable, especially Carl Reiner as Bloom, the bumbling old man who comes out shining despite the odds and Elliot Gould as Tishkoff the obnoxious former Vegas don who bankrolls the operations. In the end, the film is not about the bad, the good and the ugly. It's about class act humour - with Soderbergh's signature well in place.

source: internet

Gosford Park tops Evening Standard Film Awards

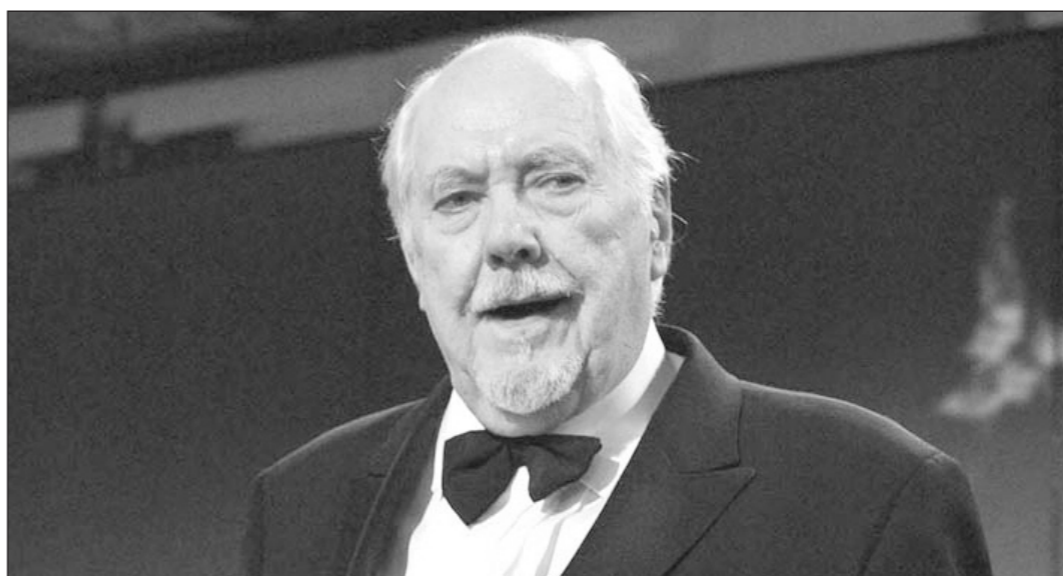
AP, London

GOSFORD PARK, the distinguished American filmmaker Robert Altman's satiric dissection of the British class system in the 1930s, was named the top film Sunday at the 29th annual Evening Standard Film Awards, honouring achievement in British moviemaking during 2001.

Altman, who will be 77 later this month, received a standing ovation from the black-tie audience at London's Savoy Hotel as he stepped to the podium to receive the prize from one of his film's stars, Dame Maggie Smith.

The choice of 'Gosford Park' was perhaps mildly surprising insofar as it only opened commercially in Britain two days prior to the ceremony.

A second ovation went to Christopher Lee, a veteran of countless "Dracula" films as well as the current "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring." Accepting his special



British director Robert Altman with his award for Best Film for Gosford Park during the Evening Standard Film Awards 2002 at The Savoy in London on February 3, 2002

award for lifetime achievement, the famously Gaunt Lee, 69, said the prize was proof that "one is never

too old and, in my case,... one cannot be too tall. "Lee stands well over six foot (1.82 meters).

"Bridget Jones's Diary," which starred American actress Renee Zellweger as the lovesick and

overweight Lodner of the title, won two awards: Hugh Grant for best comic performance and Richard Curtis, Andrew Davies and Helen Fielding for best screenplay.

Best actor went to Linus Roache for playing the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge in "Pandaemonium". Best actress went to Kate Winslet for three films -- "Quills," "Enigma," and "Iris." Winslet won in this category in 1996.

The technical achievement prize went to production designer Stuart Craig for "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," with Most Promising Newcomer going to writer-director Ben Hopkins for his little-seen Anglo-German movie, "The Nine Lives of Tomas Katz."

The awards are named for the Evening Standard, London's afternoon newspaper. The dinner kicked off a busy month for show biz trophy-giving in Britain, which includes the Olivier Awards, London's Tonys, on Feb. 15 and the British Academy Awards on Feb. 24.