

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sayed Jahangir's solo

Featuring recent artworks the 10th solo art exhibition by Sayed Jahangir will start at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts on April 18 at 6 in the evening. Minister M. Morshed Khan will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. The exhibition will continue everyday from 12-8 p.m. till May 9.

Drum concert

Yamato, a drummers' troupe from Japan will perform two concerts at 7 p.m. on April 12 and 13 at the auditorium of Osmany Memorial Hall in the city. The two concerts are being held in observance of the 30th anniversary of Japan-Bangladesh diplomatic relations. Yamato is touring South Asia. The events are jointly organised by the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Organisers have distributed free entry cards.

Video show

A video show on Shatchari forest by eminent dentist and bird specialist Dr. Ronald Halder will be held at the VIP lounge of National Press Club at 10:50 a.m. on April 9 (Tuesday). The show will be held as part of a seminar titled "Birds of Tanguar Haor and Shatchari forest". Renowned photographer and bird specialist Enam Ul Haq will deliver the key-note. The seminar will be organised by Bangladesh Bird Club and it will remain open to the general public. Proceedings will start from 10:30 a.m.

Photography Exhibition

To commemorate September 11 tragedy and to pay tribute to the innocent victims, a photography show sponsored by The American Centre of the U.S. Embassy, opened on April 7 at the city's Drik Gallery, House # 58, Road # 15/A, Dhanmondi. The show is showcasing 27 pieces taken by renowned photographer Foel Meyerowitz from World Trade Centre site. Exhibition will stay open from 3 to 8 p.m. till April 20.

Art show

An exhibition of recent paintings by Murtaza Baseer is now being held at the city's Gallery Shilparag, House # 15, Road # 16 (new) at Dhanmondi. The show is open to all from 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. everyday till April 10.

Photography

Seen from ground zero

The 27 photos on September 11 tragedy features the broken heart and undaunted spirit of the Americans

SAIFUL ISLAM

ON September 11 we experienced, with most of the people of the world, the staging of a new part of the world history. For the second time American people were attacked, and many other innocent people from other countries working in the World Trade Centre had to embrace untimely death. The number tolled to 3,000 victims with a large number of Bangladeshis. Meyerowitz, a sensitive photographer, documents the aftermath of this tragedy. The Drik Gallery, in co-operation with The American Centre of the US Embassy in Dhaka, has orga-

nized a show of some brilliant images by Meyerowitz focusing on the unimaginable fight of the New Yorkers to recover the bodies and rescue the survivors trapped and suffocated under the colossal wreck.

The exhibit is an admirable effort to share common paths with the Bangladeshis who had always been by the side of the distressed. The September 11 holocaust is still green in our memory. People passed hours sticking themselves close to the TV for the updates and analysis by the media. Now the 27 pictures on the incident by Meyerowitz will enable Bangladeshis to experience the details that are so remarkably

vivid in the photos. The large format of Meyerowitz's camera includes the largest and the minutest details purveying an experience quite touching and shivering to the viewers.

The exhibit is a significant part of the world history archived by the Bureau of Educational and US Department of State in conjunction with the Museum of the City of New York. The aim is to provide overseas US diplomatic mission with a dramatic exhibit that reminds the foreign audiences of the extraordinary extent of the World Trade Centre attacks documenting the recovery efforts and portraying the enormity of the devastation.

Meyerowitz was given an access to the areas covered by huge rubble when fire fighters and rescue workers were striving hard to salvage lives trapped in. Susan Jenkins, the manager of the studio of Meyerowitz, related the audience to her experience of the few glimpses of action that were going on in Ground Zero to save the lives that were breathing, miraculously, under the debris. "Dozens of people working with machines, working through debris, to rescue, to excavate," she added.

US ambassador in Dhaka, Mary Ann Peters, in her speech as chief guest thanked the support of the Bangladeshi people and the Bangladeshi Government to the US during the tragedy. In her words "the attack cut short lives and interrupted dreams" of many innocents.

Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, in his speech of the special guest, rejected the dogmatic feature of the Bangladeshi people presented in some newspapers. Referring to the fact that Islam is a religion upholding peace and Muslims as peace-loving peo-



Iron Workers

ple he said, "I was glued to the TV whole day watching the vast

destruction that took place. I with all other Bangladeshis

denounce the genocide and holocaust in the Gulf, in

Palestine, and in the US on September 11. We love the people of America and we will be standing by them in the times of their distress and mirth."

The poignant images of dead and destruction will definitely stay in the collective memory the viewers. There should be many more shows like this considering the fact that only cultural dialogue can breakthrough the misunderstanding increasing day by day between the Muslim world and the US.

All in all, the heroic effort and dauntless spirit of the Americans documented in the pictures are worth viewing.



North Tower and Woolrth Building



The World Financial Center

Exhibition

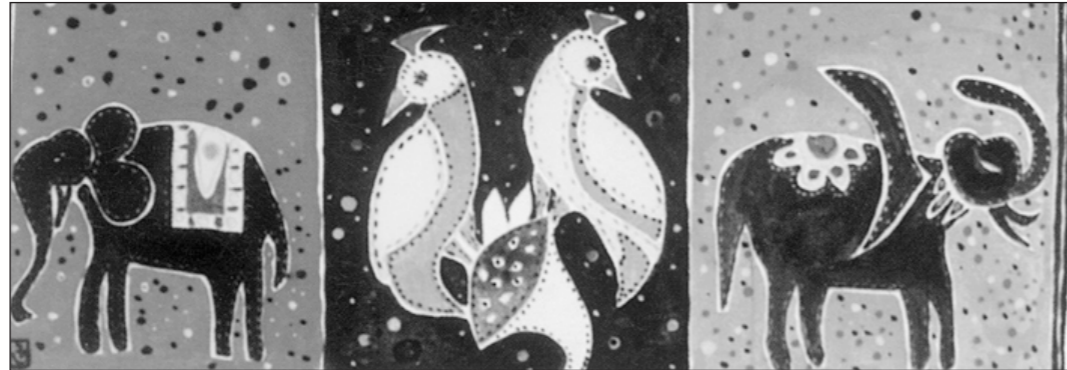
Telling a folk tale

4th solo folk painting exhibition by Uttam Ghosh opens at the city's National Museum.

TAWFIQUE ALI

A passionate young painter, Uttam Ghosh, holds his 4th solo at the city's National Museum gallery. The twelve-day long folk paintings show opened at a simple ceremony on Sunday evening with the presence of state minister for cultural affairs Selima Rahman. Country's two eminent painters Abdus Satter and Bulbon Osman were also present on the occasion.

"Folk themes, figure and motifs occupy most of my paintings in which I have tried to capture phenomenon of folk life and various aspects of folk community. My aim is to retain folk elements of our own community through my work, although I am not sure of whether I could do that properly or not," an impassioned Uttam said about his on going exhibition. He laments rapid disappearance of our age-old folk heritage in the face of constant assault of the foreign



Acrylic on Canvas

cultural inflow.

Elephants, birds and women faces are recurrent motifs and figure in Uttam's paintings done in oil on canvas and acrylic. Regarding women faces, he observes, "In a patriarchal society like ours, women folk have to suffer much humiliation and affliction which agonises me. I want to portray their untold inner-most pangs of life." Uttam's works carry a testimony to his sense of patriotism in his explo-

ration of country's age-old folk practices.

During the recent days, retention of the country's folk cultural elements has been a rising concern of the community. Common men of the country have shown an eager inclination to rediscover their kinship with the country's age-old traditional folk culture.

A number of pieces on the display, depict moving elephant in woody surroundings and

chirping birds on the tree branches. Young rural women faces, delicately decorated with a red piece of tinsel set on the forehead and nose ring set with a pendant, holding hand fan, appear in association with rural landscape in several other pieces. Women, with their hair done up with floral decoration, are beautifully harmonised with nature. These particular paintings offer one a unique union of women and nature.

Three other life-size pieces portray women's innermost affliction and their instinctive strength in juxtaposition. In one of those pieces, a rural young woman has been depicted in dark colour against a bluish backdrop. Blue symbolises pain in most of Uttam's works. This young village girl appears with a vacant look indicating a harsh reality, a quite familiar image in our society. In another painting overcast with blue, viewers encounter a pair of female figures positioned face to face exchanging their innermost tales and feelings. Their being in woods adds up to its pastoral surroundings. The last piece is a contrast to other two pieces in terms of theme and message. It dwells upon an unearthly bliss of womanhood, which vitally contribute to the progression of civilisation.

An exquisitely beautified woman figure painted against a luminously bright backdrop appears as an epitome of beauty, peace, delicacy and grace. She, glowing with an erotic passion, is eager for procreation. Uttam describes this piece saying, "Womanhood is a divine source of peace, grace and tenderness whose glimpse of smile may redeem an afflicted world." Yellow, prominent in this piece, marks the mirth of spring symbolizing putting forth of new leaves and reproduction. Painter Abdus Satter, in his inaugural note, said "Although Uttam has no formal education in painting, his paintings show promise of a painter. This is what inspires us." Selima Rahman discovered a note of "patriotism" in Uttam's work, since he explored the folk ingredients of our own culture. After having obtained his



Acrylic on Canvas



Acrylic on Canvas

Graduation in Finance from Dhaka University in 1990, Uttam went to Shantinikatan to earn both Graduation and post-Graduation degrees in Theatre Art in 1996. "Since my very childhood I had an inclination to painting and poetry which finally led me to the realm of art," Uttam said.

Uttam held a solo at Gallery GAN, Basel, Switzerland in 2000. He took part in group exhibitions organised at Het Apror House, Holland in 1998; at Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada in 2000; at Museum of Fine Arts, Agen, Franch in 1999; at Zainul Gallery and Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka in 1998.

The folk painting show runs till April 18.

Cinema

US box office news

Panic Room stays at number one at North American box office



Jodi Foster in Panic Room

AFP, Los Angeles

"Panic Room," the new crime thriller starring Jodie Foster, took the top spot at the North American box office for the second straight week, according to preliminary figures announced Sunday.

The Sony Pictures film, which scared up 30 million dollars in its debut weekend, is expected to earn some 18.5 million dollars this weekend, taking totals in two weeks to 58.8 million dollars, Exhibitor Relations Inc. said.

In second place was "High Crimes," earning 15 million dollars in its debut weekend, with family comedy "Ice Age" coming in third after taking some 14.3 million in ticket receipts.



Scene from the movie Panic Room



Water Color on Paper



Acrylic on Canvas



Acrylic on Paper