

Exhibition

Discovering the colour of beauty

Debut solo show of paintings by Esmeker Uddin Ahmed ends at the city's Gallery Chittrak

TAWFIQUE ALI

A simple but joyous inaugural function at the small green lawn of Gallery Chittrak in the June 6 late afternoon launched Esmeker's ten-day long solo. Blushful beam of the fading evening sun after a shower of rain added a soothing ambience to the occasion aptly corresponding to the resonant colours of the canvas. Apart from noted painters like Rafiqun Nabi and Imdad Hussain, a host of city's art enthusiasts attended the ceremony.

It was indeed an exhibition of both paintings and apparels designed by Esmeker. Alongside the thirty pieces of paintings, the exhibition also showcased a collection of dainty boutique designs. Esmeker works in multiple art media including music. He was awarded Commonwealth Scholarship for training in boutique industry in Malaysia.

Most of his works are subject based. The paintings on display are the result of the artists' labor and devotion during last couple of years. The viewers' found the pieces easy to follow, they are simple and do contain depth at the same. Most of the works are oil painting and watercolour on canvas. His works reveal a distinct style of his own when compared to present day trend and fashion of fine arts. Evidently the painter has made efforts to discover his distinct craftsmanship. "There is an experimental approach in Esmeker's works by breaking away from traditional style and form," Rafiqun Nabi observed.

Esmeker's pieces have simple texture with simple colour and forms. "Friends" in oil on canvas captures three rural women figures with pitchers



Friends, Oil colour

fetching water from river. Simple whirling splashes of dark blue give birth to a huge tree. Though darkness dominates the piece, but beneath it there is brightness of red, yellow and off white. Three women figures are graphically portrayed one in yellow, the middle one in crimson red and rest in off white with darkness at the upper half. Simplicity of composition corresponds to the tone and mood of the area

portrayed and the serenity, which is evoked, is associated to the rural women. While a country boat is seen lying still by the bank, women are found casually gossiping and exchanging their innermost feeling with each other. They are uniquely tied with an intimate bondage of friendship under an enormous shed of the tree.

Another piece entitled 'Fa-



Birdman

tigue', done in light blue and red, paints a rider on a horseback that is indisposed due to exhaustion and refuses to move any further. Its master is heedless to its weariness and persists to make the beast carry him on. This may be a beautiful illustration of demand for human compassion for beasts.

In Esmeker's works landscapes occupy a large position. A very common motif on woman

in association with bird, suggestive of a close communion between women and nature, has found place in "Landscape and Woman".

The woman figure with a bird in her hand and half-bare bosom casually looks on under a tree with a deer at her back. There are two other birds in yellow against blue backdrop. Another landscape illustrates a traditional motif of a bull cart that



Fatigue

is moving forward under a tree. The piece entitled "Return of the Warrior" in blue against white offers a fettered fearful human figure with a demonic look. The demon labeled as warrior might represents a ravaging evil existence.

"Three Graces" in blue is another portrayal of womanly elegance and glamour gracefully drawn in white setting. Here three women figures are seen doing up hair in a bower.

A law defiant bird seller loaded with many innocent birds, a frequent figure in our city streets, appears in "Birdman". With the seller in red and birds in yellow, the piece points at an unscrupulous figure causing detriment to the ecology.

"I paint in order to capture our country's own culture and heritage. Ours is a country rich in art and culture that need to be duly upheld in its proper form and fashion. A strong craving for elegance inspires me to draw the beautiful and peaceful aspect of anything. My works aspire to delineate peace;

beauty and equilibrium in the modern day war ravaged world context," said Esmeker.

He also added that, "I paint simply because it feeds my mind. I was rather shy about my debut solo. Admiration of viewers and near and dear ones has enlivened me for my future work."

Esmeker is a free lance artist, designer, photographer and singer. He obtained his Bachelor degree in Fine Arts in 1980 from Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka. He had worked as an apparel designer with the BSCIC during 1982 to 1990. After around a decade he devoted himself to music leaving his job as a designer.

"He is one of my very favourite students. He has got an independent mind possessing whims of exploring challenges of life. His works contain different familiar motifs, forms, and phenomena of the country. I have inspired him to unlock his artistic inclinations in different art media," Rafiqun Nabi said.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Reconstruction of Reality

June 7-21 Kazi Sayed Ahmed holds a solo exhibition of his artworks titled 'Reconstruction of Reality' at the gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. The show is open to all daily except Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Jamdani exhibition

June 3-18 A Jamdani sari exhibition is on at Haseen's gallery in Kemal Ataturk Ave. in the city. Done in cotton and half silk, around 150 saris are on display with 24 designs. The show is open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Bird fair, painting, quiz competition

June 29 A bird fair will be held at Aga Thakurpara in Barguna district on June 29 that is to be organised by Dalchut, a little magazine club with cooperation from Enam-Ul-Haque, President of Bangladesh Bird Club. Children's painting contest, quiz competition, photography exhibition and bird watching will also be held.

Music Festival

June 20-21 On the auspicious occasion of the two-day 'Music festival 2002' at the premises and gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, a piano concert will be held on the first day at 4 p.m. and performances will comprise of students from l'ecole de musique a La Galerie. Later on, in the late evening a concert will be held of Indian classical songs to be performed by Nilufar Yasmeen and flutist Gazi Abdul Hakim. The evening's session will end through a performance from boys of rock group, 'Bangladesh Band'.

On the second day, proceedings will begin in the morning with a film exhibition on topics of music. Documentaries on various French singers and jazz artists will be screened throughout the day. An international French school will be opened at 11 a.m. Baul singer Shahjahan Miah, who is blind and father of young singer Lokman Hakim, will render songs from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. A folk songs event to be organized by fashion designer Bibi Russell will start at 9 p.m. to continue till late.

TV GUIDE

Table with TV channels and programs: EKUSHEY, AXN, BBC WORLD, ATN BANGLA, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: AXN, BBC WORLD, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: HBO, STAR MOVIES, STAR PLUS, STAR GOLD, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS, PICK OF THE DAY, STAR WORLD, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: PICK OF THE DAY, STAR WORLD, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, HALL MARK, ZEE CINEMA, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: ZEE TV, ZEE MUSIC, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: ALPHA TV BANGLA, ZEE MUSIC, etc.