

Exhibition

Capturing regeneration amidst ruin

New York-based photographer Obaidullah Mamoon holds exhibition on Sept. 11 theme in the city

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HERE is a collage of glimpses of hope and resolution for a collective regeneration, being exhibited in the city, having been brought from the Armoury, the Union Square, Ellis Island, the Hudson River, and other places

in New York. The familiar names at once remind one of one missing element that once stood in New York as a symbol of stupendous elegance and grandeur-- the Twin Towers, which was brought down in a terrorist attack on September 11 last year. They also remind

one of a void that can hardly be filled. But, at the same time, the collage depicts the historic moments when the Americans stood in solidarity to endure the loss and balm the pain.

Obaidullah Mamoon, a Bangladeshi residing in Manhattan, holds this exhibition of photographs at the National Art Gallery of Shilpakala Academy. The exhibition was inaugurated on September 29 by the Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed, accompanied by Karl Fritz-- the Press and Cultural Attaché of the American Centre in Bangladesh, Mustafa Monwar-- renowned TV personality and artist, and Khalid Mahmood Mithu-- artist and TV film director. Titled The Twin Towers and the American Spirit: Lost and Regained, the exhibition continues up to October 6 everyday from 11 am to 7 p.m., and on Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

A number of photography exhibitions have been held since September 11, 2001. But this one by Mamoon one year after the massacre, holds up a completely different standpoint of the photographer: that of 'coming together' of people, that of rebuilding of a lost faith. Mamoon has divided his theme into three aspects-- nine eleven..., coming together..., alive forever, each part appropriately prologued by descriptions of his feeling. The first part consists of about ten photographs capturing the different moments and phases of the collapse of the Twin Towers. In 'coming together...' Mamoon turns his lens towards images



The Holy Cross recovered from the site and is on display at Ground Zero

of humanity, solidarity and rebirth of a nation amidst the ruins. The last section, however, projects the magnificent existence of the Towers, in the absence of which there has created an irreparable void, yet the memory of which is still fresh and will remain alive forever.

Mamoon's photographs have a different dimension of their own, and project the torments of an artist's realisation and transformation from utter disbelief towards submission to belief. The two images of the

collapsing of the Towers, clouds of appalling white dust spreading as though over the human consciousness, people running away as if driven by some ugly ferocious creature-- everything tells of an experience that is inevitably different from others. For, unlike other forms of art where there is scope for brooding over the incidence, photography is an artistic expression of the very instant.

The second part of the photographs exhibits the loving tribute to those fateful victims,

and a stronger, more united America in its defiance of terrorism. Posters inscribed with sympathetic comments and resolute promises of protest, murals depicting faith in love's win over hatred, and live moments of 'coming together' become the subjects of these photographs. Pictures of people lighting candles in memory of the victims project the solemn firmness that every American bore in their hearts. Two black-and-white photographs show people gazing at the emptiness that was once filled by the towers.

Pictures of the first memorial service, especially one showing the Defense Minister Colin Powell reading out the names of 2801 deceased, are still heartrending in effect. A frame resembling the Holy Cross, found in the debris, has been erected at what is now known as 'Ground Zero'. The photograph of this Holy Cross inevitably arouses in one's heart the very faith in the omnipotent Almighty, and brings to mind that He is always with the believers. Another picture shows a relic recovered from the site, its silvery smoothness shining still, now a monument to the dead and the missing.

In two photographs, Mamoon has framed Manhattan in the night. The Towers are missing with all their splendour from the 'lightscape' of Manhattan. Only two blue beams of light go upwards filling the void in Manhattan in people's memory too.

The final section presents photographs of the World Trade Centre, Mamoon had captured over the past fourteen years from many angles: 'from high above the Empire State Building, and from down below, often the very plinth' of the WTC. Mamoon says that the towers in the very first days of his life in Manhattan would mean two doves 'flying skyward and determined to touch the sky'. Later he found in them the images of 'two parents' with the assurance of 'safe shelter'. In one photograph, Lady Liberty is shown facing the Twin Towers; the images of liberty and loftiness are thus brought complementary to each other. The pictures of the sun setting behind the towers, emitting glowing twilight, itself becomes a permanent tribute to the Towers that will remain ever alive in people's memory.

At the opening ceremony of the exhibition, Khalid Mahmood Mithu said that it was Mamoon's congenial nature that made him focus particularly on the theme of regaining hope and faith. Where passionate artists like Rabindranath Tagore, Jasmuddin and Jibananda Das were born, Mamoon's eyes could not be otherwise but 'softened with passionate humanity'. Indeed, Mamoon's works reveal a heart that is shocked by terror, moved by the trail of sad memories, and yet resolved by the hope of rebirth.



The collapse of the South Tower

RECOMMENDATIONS

Hashem Khan's

Solo Exhibition

September 27 October 7

Renowned artist Hashem Khan holds a solo exhibition, 'Art Fair: Six Seasons' at Shilpangan gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition remains open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Photography on The Twin Towers

September 29 October 6

A photography exhibition is on at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city, of photographer Obaidullah Mamoon, titled, 'The Twin Towers and the American Spirit' and remains open to all from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily except on Friday, when the time is 3 to 7 p.m.

Six celebrated artists' show

Sept. 20 Oct 7

Akku Chowdhury hosts art exhibition of 6 celebrated artists of the country, Jamal Ahmed, Kanak Champa Chakma, Khalid Mahmood Mithu, Saidul Islam Juise, Fareha Zeba and Nisar Hossain at La Galerie, Kemal Ataturk Avenue. The show remains open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Solo art exhibition

Artist Firoz Mahmud holds a solo exhibition of his artworks at the Alliance Francaise de dhaka, sponsored by Benson & Hedges. The exhibition is open to all and the timings coincide with that of Alliance Francaise.

TV GUIDE

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes channels like BBC World, ATN Bangla, and various news and entertainment programs.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes BBC News, World Business Report, and other international news programs.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Star Movies, AXN TV, and various film and entertainment shows.

Today's Highlights section featuring 'Mr. Rock 'n' Roll' and 'Frankie and Johnny' with promotional images and descriptions.

Pick of the Day section featuring 'Frankie and Johnny' with a promotional image and text.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes ZEE News, ZEE English, and other news and entertainment programs.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Pratinibha, Chena Mukher, and other news and entertainment programs.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Yaadein Radio, ZEE Music, and other news and entertainment programs.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes ATN Bangla, various news, and entertainment programs.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Hallmark, Star Gold, and other entertainment programs.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Star Plus, Star World, and other entertainment programs.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Star News, various news, and entertainment programs.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes National Geographic, Channel V, and other entertainment programs.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Alpha TV, various news, and entertainment programs.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes ZEE MGM, ZEE Cinema, and other entertainment programs.

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