

Photography

Post-modern approach in humane stills

Morten Krogvold's photographs being shown at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka

SAIFUL ISLAM

MORTEN Krogvold's camera seems to be interested in documenting history, a kind of history that does not bear the colossal pressure of nationalism, therefore free of being an institutionalized concept history includes the private pathos and mirth and thus focuses on the surroundings that enslave an independent agent, a human being.

Chobi Mela II festival of Photography, 2002 was organised for the second time by the Drik Gallery to bring the people living in different continents closer, an aspiring range of events no doubt. The festival started on November 3, 2002 and will end on December 20, 2002. The festival includes as many as fifteen photography exhibits and five workshops and the events takes place in as many as fourteen different places. After the first successful festival a good number of established photographers of international repute joined the festival this year. At Bengal

Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka, as a part of the festival, a series of photographs by Morten Krogvold is being showcased. This mirrors a riveting study of nature, elimination of natural agents and parallels the existential problem of man with these.

His history is local in smell and colour, ordinary from an elitist point of view but extraordinary for a subaltern man. It does depend on an individual and that is why it is not modern. But it is post-modern in the sense that it talks about the plural and ordinary. It gives a room to the neglected part of the society and conceives an aesthete who considers the humane feelings important. Empathy is the dominant feature that can be seen in Morten's snaps, concerned with environmental disasters, and famine.

An important aspect of Morten's photos is silence, an extraordinary quietness that whispers. Even the dead in his photos talk, they not only talk they dance, (Dance of Death, Italy 2001). And what do they celebrate? What is the object of their ridicule? His stills sarcasti-



cally focus on facets of society that we rather like to ignore. We ignore the fact that the largest part of population walking over the earth passes its days starving. We love to ignore that we cannot deny our responsibility in their misery. We also try to avoid the cycle of natural revenge that may one day strike us. We kill birds in many ways, and we destroy living agents and that is why we should await the peril of global warming and natural disaster; a kind of natural revenge for our careless slaughter of birds and animals.

It could be perceived, perhaps correctly, that he keeps and moulds an image in the darkroom, and thus produces a portrait that not only shows the person or objects, but also reveals, quite emphatically the very inner being on many levels with the same intensity. Again it seems that his works are multi-layered and can be interpreted in many ways. That is why it seems that his works are compelling and engaging at the same time. It holds the viewer glued to its frame for a long time and thus makes him think. So primarily the effect exerted is on the thought process, and a gradual

process kindles the imagination. The intellectual impetus cannot be

ignored. In one or two of his portraits it seems that the space is wasted; but it would be faulty to believe that. It may appear queer why he does so. Perhaps he wants to leave the viewer the ample choice to turn eyes this way and that way.

There are simple portraits like 'Nelson Mandela - The Last Real Hero,' though a wide space is left vacant in this particular work. One of his eyes looks directly to the onlooker. The other eye is half covered by a shade, a playful maneuver of light is present there. The eye that is directed towards the viewer sharply provokes and seems to question the conscience. This could be taken as one example of the photographers taking the charge of the viewer's psychology and utilizing it to pass on his messages.

The issue of racial antagonism contains a large part of his works. Most of the works are portraits that speak of the misery of famine stricken Eritrea. In 'Niger 2000' we

see a black who has covered his head with a coarse cloth. A tiny insect sits over his head. Perhaps the photographer took a long time to create this portrait. This work is full of suggestions and purveys a lot of insight. It suggests that the setting of the subject of the portrait is unclear. Poverty and misery are shown. In a similar kind of a portrait on Bangladesh a destitute covers his head with sackcloth. Misery wears the same look wherever it is present. So the individuals are borderline people. The photographer's message is clear and straight, he is focusing on the subalterns and the have-nots. He is post-modern in the sense that his subject is the plural not the individual. His individuals represent a class.

Leif Preus sums up Morten Krogvold's pursuit of art and humanity as a part of his passion (photography): 'A photograph is a means of communication. Yes. But a photograph is also just a photo-

graph, an object, something concrete on a piece of paper, a unique thing, a modern icon. Something to touch and feel. The very best can have high artistic value. Of these many bears the signature Morten Krogvold. Morten Krogvold is conservative. He wants to preserve and develop the best in our cultural heritage. He builds on the photo-art-classical tradition, which he refines and revives in his photographs. He is modern, living intensely in the present, tiringly lively. He can speak continuously for five hours without a manuscript and without his audience looking at the clock. To be photographed by Morten Krogvold is in itself an unforgettable experience. The picture is just a bonus. Hidden in the photograph's surfaces, lines and forms you find that part of a work of art which cannot be defined.' The Exhibit will end on December 10.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Shahzadi Mehendi festival

Up to Chandraat
A colourful festival of mehendi decoration is going on at the Drik gallery. Conducted by Shahzadi Mehendi together with Telecine Subtext, the festival features various kinds of designs 'from across time and from across region'. And what makes this year's endeavour more special is that it is being dedicated in memory of Simi Banu, who was a warm participant in the first such festival last year. The present festival gives the artists and designers an opportunity to commemorate the lively presence of Simi that very tragically came to an end. The festival opened on December 24, and will continue up to the chandraat, the evening before the Eid Day.

Dyed Fabric show
November 26 December 6
'Rangeen Ushab', an exhibition celebrating 20 years of the revival of natural dyes in Bangladesh, has a unique range of fashionware and gifts in exquisite colours and designs.

The exhibition is accompanied by craft demonstrations and is being held at Aranya, 60, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani. The show is open from morning till late evening everyday and is open to all.

Art Show

November 20 January 10
A group art exhibition of four young artists is being held at the American International School at Baridhara in the city and remains open daily throughout the day.

Apparel display

November 22 December 6
An exhibition of dresses and apparels take place at ARIAL Centre (Rd. 7), Dhanmondi in the city. The show is open from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily and is open to all.

Surya Utsav

December 29 January 02
Bangladesh Astronomical Association arranges one of its annual events, Surya Utsav (Sun Festival) as the organisation aims at showing the participants, several exciting matters including the first sunrise of the year 2003, cultural ceremony of the indigenous people of the area, Keokradang at Bandarban district, Pittha festival and observation of the night sky through telescope. Interested persons are requested to register names within November 30 at the office of Bangladesh Astronomical Association 1/3, Block-E, Lalmatia, Dhaka Ph: 0171-187555.



PHOTO CREDITS: DRIK

TV GUIDE

BTV	12:00p.m. Opening	12:10 News headline	12:15 Patriotic songs	1:00 News	2:00 News headline	3:00 News (English)	4:00 News headline	4:50 Mahe Ramzan	5:00 News	6:00 News	7:00 News headline (English)	7:05 Weather	8:00 News (Bangla)	9:00 News headline	9:30 Bangla-r mukh	10:00 News at ten	10:25 News feature	11:15 Khabar/The News	11:45 Closing						
CHANNEL-i	07:00 a.m. Pratham Shur	09:30 Music Plus	10:35 I Sports	10:50 Fashion Show	11:25 Drama Serial: Griha Galpa	12:00 Drama Serial: Britter bairey	01:00 p.m. Shurer Kabita	02:00 Bangla feature film: Griha Lakshmi	05:00 Ramzanul Mubarak, Aazan, Hamd-Naat	05:30 Islam and Science	05:50 Teer Monohar Iftar	06:10 Music Plus	06:50 Drama Serial	07:15 Channel i News	07:45 Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (questions)	07:55 Fashion Show	08:25 Drama Serial: Bhul	09:00 Channel i News	09:30 Shangbadpatrey Bangladesh	09:40 Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (results)	10:00 Drama Serial: Achena Tara	10:25 Channel i Mobile Quiz 2525	10:30 Channel i News	11:15 Audio Bazaar	12:00 a.m. Channel i News

HBO	6:30 Alien Cargo	8:15 Star Trek: The Undiscovered Country	10:30 Slappy and The Stinkers	12:00 Silver	2:00 Contagious	4:00 Hush	6:00 Mute Witness	8:00 Spiders	10:00 Payback	12:00 Extreme Measures	2:15 Star Trek: The Undiscovered Country	4:30 Silver			
STAR MOVIES	00:30 Bad Trip	02:15 Stepfather	04:00 Tribulation	05:45 UK Top Ten	06:15 Life With Mikey (Aka: Give Me A Break)	08:00 It Had To Be You	9:45 Tootsie	11:45 Liars Club	13:30 Crimson Tide	15:30 Do You Wanna Know A Secret	17:15 Red Heat	19:00 Double Take	20:45 Brotherhood I		
HALLMARK	01:00 Within These Walls	03:00 Primal Secrets	05:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 63	06:00 Dalva	08:00 The Last Days Of Chez Nous	10:00 Young Riders, The - Speak No Evil	11:00 The Prisoner Of Zenda, Inc.	01:00 Touched By An Angel VII (25 X 1hr) - Episode # 8	02:00 Reasonable Doubt	03:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 63	03:00 Scholastic Clifford - Tough Enough/Stars In Your Eyes	03:30 Cailou - Episode # 31	04:00 Flipper - Episode # 2	05:00 Early Edition (Episodes 1-23x1hr) Season - Love Is Blind	06:00 Star Trek: Voyager -

Episode # 49 The Swarm	07:00 Sublet	09:00 Early Edition	Country (Episodes 24-46x1hr) Seaso - Home	10:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 44 False Profits	11:00 Back To The Secret Garden
AXN (+30mins)	6:30 Movie: Defenseless	8:30 Adventure Central	9:30 VIP The K-Files	10:30 The Outer Limits	11:30 Dead Man's Switch
18 Wheels of Justice Con Truck	12:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not	1:30 VIP The K-Files	2:30 Movie: Defenseless	4:30 Adventure Central	5:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not!
18 Wheels of Justice	6:30 Legacy of Blood	7:30 Battledome	8:30 Beastmaster The Choice	9:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime	10:30 Wed Atlas The Coup
11:30 AXN Who Dares Wins India Special	12:30 The Hunger	SONY (+30mins)	6:00 Music Mantra	6:30 Just Mohabbat	7:00 Dil Ka Dwar Khol
7:00 Amrit Varsha	8:00 Sant Asaram Vani	8:30 Chartbusters	9:00 Good Morning	9:30 Disney	10:00 Music Mantra
10:30 Shaheen	11:00 Chamatkaar	5:30 Family No. 1	12:00 Hum Sab Ek Hain	12:30 Backhe Rehnaa	1:00 Kkusum
1:30 Current Bollywood	2:00 Kutumb	2:30 Kuchh Jhuki Palkain	3:00 Om Namay Shivay	4:00 Just Mohabbat	4:30 Kahin Diya Jale
5:00 Dil Hai Ke Manta	5:00				

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS	STAR WORLD: 6:00 & 9:30p.m.	CHARMED. There's Prue Halliwell (Shannen Doherty), the beautiful and driven oldest sister, Piper (Holly Marie Combs), the earthy, creative middle sister and Phoebe (Alyssa Milano), the free spirited youngest. All of whom lived their entire lives without a clue as to who they really were. In tonight's episode, Leo and Piper's wedding day arrives, but all is not well with Prue.
HBO: 12 midnight. Extreme Measures.	Thriller about Guy Luthan (Hugh Grant), a British doctor working at a hospital in New York who starts making unwanted enquiries when the body of a man who died in his emergency room disappears. The trail leads Luthan to the door of the eminent surgeon Dr Lawrence Myrick (Gene Hackman), but Luthan soon finds himself under in danger from people who want the hospital's secret to remain undisclosed.	

PICK OF THE DAY	Payback	On HBO at 10:00 p.m. What was supposed to be a routine robbery turns into a double cross when Porter's wife and his best friend shoot him and leave him for dead. But things take a turn for the bizarre when Porter recuperates seeking revenge for the money he was swiped out of.					
14:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet	15:00 Mela	18:15 Hit Geet	18:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet	19:00 Shradhanjali	22:30 Jubilee Plus	23:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet	23:30 Ramkali - Sundaymatinee
STAR SPORTS (+30mins)	00:00 Sportsline Tonight	Sportsline (R)	00:30 Golf Programming	Nedbank Golf Challenge 2002 Sun City, South Africa Day One(T)	03:30 Sportsline Tonight	Sportsline (R)	04:00 Great Four Grand Prix
Gymnastics 2002/03	Paris, France	04:00 Highlights #1(T)	06:30 Gillette World Sports	Special Gillette World Sports (R)	07:00 Pakistan Tour Of	Zimbabwe Nissan International Series	Harare, Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe Vs Pakistan	5th Odi, Highlights(R)	08:30 Spanish Football	League 2002/03	Spanish Football	League Alaves, Spain	Alaves Vs Valencia Cf (R)	11:00 International
Motorsports News	International	12:00 Motorsports News	International	12:30 Sportscenter Bristol, Ct Usa (L)	13:30 Asian Bowling Tour	Aviva Asian Bowling Tour, Chinese Taipei	Quarterfinals(T)
15:05 Women's Pro Billiards	2002 Wpba Classic	Tour Albuquerque, Nm	Usa Semifinal #2(T)	03:30 South Africa Cricket	Standard Bank One	Day International	Series Benoni, South
Africa South Africa Vs	Sri Lanka 3rd Odi,	Highlights(R)	18:00 South Africa Cricket	Standard Bank One	Day International	Series Kimberly, South	Africa South Africa Vs
Sri Lanka 4th Odi, 1st	Session(L)	21:30 Sportscenter Hindi (L)	22:00 South Africa Cricket	Standard Bank One	Day International	Series Kimberly, South	Africa South Africa Vs
Sri Lanka 4th Odi, 2nd	Session(L)	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (+30mins)	00:00 Into The Flames	01:00 Urban Elephant	02:00 The Volcano That Blew The World Away	03:00 Science Of Sport	04:00 The Caveman Return
05:00 Into The Flames	06:00 Urban Elephant	07:00 The Volcano That Blew The World Away	08:00 Science Of Sport	09:00 The Caveman Return	10:00 Dogs With Jobs	10:30 Tomorrow's World	11:00 Into The Flames
12:00 Wildlife Warriors	13:00 Dogs With Jobs S3	14:30 African Wildlife	17:30 Red Storm	15:00 Hot Science	16:00 Raiders Of The Lost Gold	17:00 Animal Attraction	17:30 Mission Wild
18:00 Dogs With Jobs	18:30 Tomorrow's World	19:00 Elephant Vision	20:00 Tales From Ground Zoo	21:00 Violent Volcano	22:00 Hot Science	23:00 Jewels Of The Caribbean	STAR NEWS (+30mins)
00:00 Star News English	00:30 Star News	02:00 Business News	02:30 Star News Hour	03:30 Sports Tonight	04:00 Star News	06:00 Star News Hour	07:00 Breakfast News
09:00 Star News	10:30 Hotline	11:00 Star News	18:00 Hotline	18:30 Star Bazaar	19:00 Saat Baje	19:30 Star Khel	20:00 Tonight At 8
20:30 Samachar	21:00 Star News English						



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