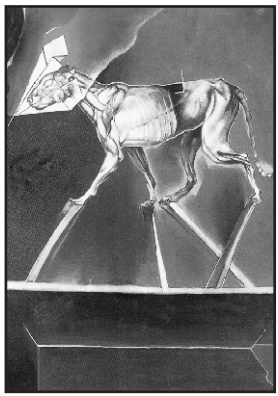


RECOMMENDATIONS



7th Berger Young Painters' Art Exhibition December 22-26

Tapan Sinha Retrospective Zahir Raihan Film Society. December 26

Exhibition December 20-31

Paintings December 26-30

Art Show November 20 January 10

Exhibition

Fashion

Aspiring designers dwell on haute couture

Discussing shapes and silhouettes of daring apparels, at "La Galerie"

FAYZA HAQ

SITTING at "La Galerie", Alliance Francaise, where a fashion show was held recently, Fuad, who won the first prize on the occasion, had the theme of "Inner world", which included casual clothes in "khadi" materials...

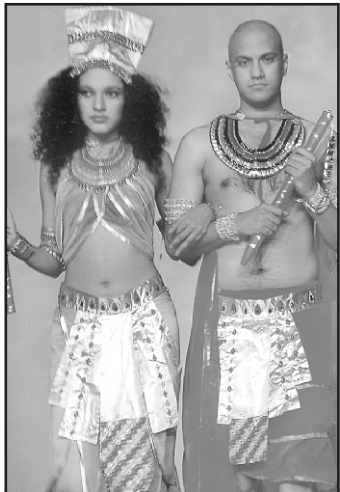
Fuad said, "I came into the design world on my own, and when I'd proved myself I won the admiration of family and friends, as it is not normal in Bangladesh to accept a man to have designing for his career. I've been a designer since 1998 and studied at NIFD, doing a two-year course in a year. I think fashion reflects man's thoughts and inclinations, and it is definitely based on the culture of the country from which it originates..."

Talking about what is most important in our fashion designing, Fuad said, "I choose those fabrics that will best express my thoughts and inclinations. The design sometimes dictates the fabric and at times it is the other way round. Sometimes both the fabric and the design play equal parts in my creations..."

Asked whether he has taken



Creations of Fuad (1st prize), Sabrina (2nd prize), Shipon (4th prize) and Syvia (5th prize)



Creations by Sony, who won the 3rd prize at the show

fashion designing as a serious profession, Fuad said, "I got my first break with 'Kaycraft', 'Anjan's', 'Proshika', 'Textmart' and 'Henry's Heritage'. As a group I presented my show for the first time at Alliance Francaise for 'Kaycraft' and in 2002; I took part in 'Boishakhi Exhibition' at 'Textmart's showroom in Banani; In 2002 I took part in another group fashion show for Eid. Later, I took part in BAT Expo (BGMA annual show) at 'Sonargaon' last November. I find fashion designing the most beautiful form of art. The clothes should not only be exhibited but bought eagerly..."

Aklima Sultana Sony said, "From my childhood I wanted to go into

fashion designing. At first I designed my own clothes in my youth and won the admiration of my family and friends for that. As I lacked technical know-how, I decided to study designing in an academic way for six months with the 'Fashion Institute of Designing' (FID), concentrating on pattern making, illustration, design development, history of costumes, marketing, textile fundamentals, computer aided design and machine engineering. I also studied for six months at Bangalore ALT College, there concentrating mainly on leather designing and later there was my internship. I also did computer aided designing abroad..."

Sony said that apart from her own inner drive for designing, there were her family and friends to encourage her. She said that it will naturally take time for Bangladeshi designers to be at par with international designers,

who are exposed to so much more cultural background and know-how necessary for the international demand.

Dwelling on the particular ensembles that she had designed for the fashion parade at 'La Galerie', Sony said that she designs her clothes for different occasions and seasons. She herself prefers cotton and muslin garments, and in that particular show, her clothes were inspired by ancient Nile valley. She said, "For five thousand years Nile has been the river of life for Egypt and its people. Nile gave birth to one of the most celebrated ancient civilization: the Egyptian civilization. This civilization still now keeps us spellbound with its mysterious glory. So many designers, artists and poets, like Shelley, who wrote 'On the sand, half sunk, a shattered visage lies...' Thus I have also taken inspira-

tion from papyrus writings of hieroglyphics of the temples and sphinxes, using them in the form of lithographs prints on the clothes. I wish this civilization could come back so that we can experience a part of it."

Talking about the important factors to keep in mind while designing for a fashion show, Sony said, "My theme was totally different from the others as it was a resurrection of another civilization, which has little present connection with that now found in Bangladesh and in its neighbours in South East Asia. I had used modern materials, like chiffon, silk and gilded ribbons, beads and hand paint as well as block work. The man was in red while the young woman was in turquoise. I was not satisfied with the exhibition as there could not be a proper stage for a catwalk. I wanted a sedan but there was no space for that. There were six costumes in all. It included Queen Nefertite, her consort, the pharaoh, two slaves and two royal serving ladies. I had earlier won a first prize for this presentation at 'Sonargaon' in August from FID, my institute."

Elaborating on her future plans, Sony said, "I hope to bring in more of our own culture, seasons, and cater to the bourgeoisie rather than the upper echelons of our society." Talking about why they had used only a handful of models repeatedly at that particular fashion show that Thursday, Sony said, "That it would have been more expensive. We could not display our clothes through the curved passage and the adjoining café. The models got disoriented as a consequence."

Apart from designing Sony is an entrepreneur with organizations like "Midas Mini Mart" etc.

Sylvia Gomes, from The National Institute of Fashion Design (NIFD), an Honours 1st year student of the Home Economics College, another participant, said that she wished to go in for designing as a child and wanted to do something creative and independent with our local fabrics from the beginning. Financially, she has always had her family backing. Speaking of how our clothes compared with those found overseas, Sylvia said, "Designing always reflects our own culture or should. Since ours differ from those abroad, our clothes too are bound to be

different. However, the media though channel TV and fashion magazines as well as the imported clothes in the market -- for both men and women -- influence our own taste and designs. In our designing the impact of the west comes in automatically and what is Indian cannot be differentiated from our own products at times as one tends to influence the other through one way or another -- whether we like it or not. Even if the materials are our own, the shapes and forms tend to be like those found abroad. We tend to follow India and Pakistan designs most of all."

Dwelling on her own ensembles at the fashion show, Sylvia said, "I had three black and white creations which I called 'Fusion'. The theme was the life of mankind. I believe that no man is altogether black (bad) or white (pure and innocent). Again there is both joy and sorrow in our lives. A happy man does have his portion of grief and disappointments, while the sorrowing person will have his/her moments of joy and satisfaction. You cannot say that an ordinary man does not have some talent or another of his own. Similarly a famous or successful person has his/her flaws in character. I had western clothes, while the materials were a combination of local and imported fabrics like acrylic ones, thick polyester along with trimmings of 'gota' work, which were of a mixed material. The local fabrics, meanwhile, were of silk and cotton."

Discussing the important elements to keep in mind while designing clothes, Sylvia said, "The elements of design the silhouette, fabric, and colour must be kept in mind. The weather, season, and culture too have their importance. The personality of the person modeling the clothes should be kept in mind too."

The fashion show at "La Galerie" brought in various attempts at modern designing and entertained the viewers free of cost. The work could be labeled as "assez bien" going by international standards. The lack of stage and space as well as the limitation of models were the flies in the ointment. Good boutiques in town have better and more suitable collection for ready-wear but here was a live performance of a type. Surely none of the onlookers were biased.

TV GUIDE

Table with TV program listings for BT, H, and STAR MOVIES, including titles like 'Snow Falling On Cedars', 'The Ticket', and 'The Simpsons'.

Table with TV program listings for STAR WORLD and STAR GOLD, including titles like 'Universal Soldier: The Return', 'Desert Blue', and 'The Simpsons'.

Table with TV program listings for STAR GOLD and CHANNEL [V], including titles like 'The Simpsons', 'The Simpsons', and 'The Simpsons'.

Table with TV program listings for TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS and CARTOON NETWORK, including titles like 'Universal Soldier: The Return', 'Desert Blue', and 'The Simpsons'.

Table with TV program listings for PICK OF THE DAY, ONE, HALLMARK, and ADVENTURE, including titles like 'Dracula', 'Nick's Quest', and 'The Simpsons'.

Table with TV program listings for NATIONAL BANK SERIES, STAR SPORTS, and ESPN, including titles like 'New Zealand Cricket', 'Formula One Boat Racing', and 'New Zealand Cricket'.

Table with TV program listings for AXN, STAR SPORTS, and SONY, including titles like 'Movie: Back To The Future Part II', 'The Simpsons', and 'The Simpsons'.

Table with TV program listings for ANIMAL PLANET and DISCOVERY, including titles like 'The Jeff Corwin Experience', 'Wild Rescue II', and 'Discovery Sunday'.