

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

May 22-June 5

The inauguration of a painting exhibition by Kakoli and a sculpture exhibition by Reaz will take place at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka on May 22 at 6:00 p.m. The exhibition will continue till June 5.

May 16-22

The second solo painting exhibition of artist Rajaul Islam Loveli is going on at the Zainul gallery of Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. The display is open for visitors daily from 2 pm to 8 pm.

Music

May 22-23

Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad will hold Nazrul Sangeet Conference to mark the 104th birth anniversary of the Rebel-poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. The conference will feature Nazrul songs performed by reputed Nazrul artistes of the country. On the second day the Parishad will accord reception to eminent Nazrul Sangeet personalities Firoza Begum, Sohrab Hossain, Sudhin Das, Abdus Sattar, Julhasuddin Ahmed, Khalid Hossain, Ferdousi Rahman, and Rafiqul Islam. The programme will take place at the Nazrul Institute auditorium (Road-28 (old), Dhanmondi) at 5 p.m.

Film

May 21

Impress Telefilm will hold the inauguration ceremony of the shooting of *Kokhono Megh Kokhono Brishti*, a film written by Rabeya Khatun and directed by film-actress Moushumi at 4:00 pm at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium. The Information Minister Tarique Islam will be present at the ceremony as the chief guest.

Exhibition

An extravaganza of feminine visions

Exhibition of 28 women artists at Bengal Gallery

FAYZA HAQ

THE 28 artists' display at the Bengal Foundation celebrates the creativity of human imagination. It proved once again the remarkable prowess of our women painters and sculptors ranging from Farida Zaman and Rokeya Sultana to Nahid Niazi to Farzana Zaman Milky. Constantly striving and experimenting what they have to show takes one breath away with admiration. This was to celebrate the recent Women's Initiative for Peace in South Asia.

Farida Zaman's work brings in a feline dream of numerous fish hanging from nets in a rising sun. The fishing nets hang delicately against the gray blue sky and gentle

In shades of purple indigo, gold and black dots is Naima Haque's

contributions in splashes of blue, lemon yellow, green and russet with simplified figures in variations of gray blue and green. For some time inspired by nature's beauty and simplicity Rokeya is a many times prize winner and a popular teacher at the Dept. of Print Making at the Fine Arts Institute. Nasreen Begum's "Cacti Woman" in acrylic and pen had gentle strokes of blue against green and brought in beautiful forms as only a dedicated exponent of oriental art can be. The young woman with the elegance of Grecian art holds on to the cactus as if it were some delicate lily blossom. Nasreen studied print making at Baroda and is reputed for the pristine charm of her work.

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"Moon" in acrylic on canvas, brings in the glory of the tribal people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts with their innocence and charm of their bejewelled appearance. Beside the seated women in red, white and black is the black disc of the moon, an outlined black bloat in front and the expanse of the hills and houses beyond in abstract lines of gray, black and yellow. Kanai who has studied at USA, is a freelance artist at present.

"Hyacinth Girl" in mixed media by Leila Sharmin, presents herself portrait dreaming and gazing from a dreamland of hyacinth garden with purple and blue blossom, seen in barred rows, with the starlit sky above. In vertical bars of indigo, purple royal blue and lemon green, with the portrait with its cascading black hair and pen-

sketched in figures in gray scattered on the canvas add to the sense of loneliness and alienation. Ferdousi Priyobhashini's untitled piece in driftwood root could be a modern piece of sculpture showing a torso in bulges of brown muscles. Ferdousi's imagination and dedication to her work has always been admirable.

Atiya Islam Annie's "Woman and society 11" has a surrealistic aura with the Mona Lisa in a square, ghostly white hands showing the portrait to the world, rows of hands bearing plastic artificial flowers of admiration under it, and a bar of waving fleshy leaves on the third section of the canvas. With an MFA in Drawing and Painting from the Institute of Fine Arts, DU, Atiya is an art teacher at Jhapi School of Art. "Embryo withdrawn-11" by Dilara Begum Jolly is again out to express a decisive message rather than win the admiration of the casual buyer with an aim of decorating the sitting room walls.

Sarkar Nahid Niazi's "Broken Window" presents the beauty of old parts of our architecture in the form of a widow with an open portion planked up and covered with torn netting. The other parts of the open window present more planks of wood put in horizontal and vertical forms, painted over with interesting blues and beige. Nahid has done her BFA from the Institute of Fine Arts, DU. "Woman", acrylic on canvas by Setara Elin, presents a gorgeous female nude with a single black pearl couched on the pale bosom, with forms of nature, water and plant branches and leaves forming the backdrop of the voluptuous form. Setara has done her MFA from the Institute of Fine Arts, DU.

Tandra Das's "Movement of the wind" brings in delicate motifs of leaves set in a net pattern, with a few geometrical forms included in the composition of beige and green, with a touch of red and blue. Tayeba Begum Lipi's "Toys" with its presentation of eastern and western women present the artist's belief that women are puppets in the hands of society and its dictates. Both Tandra and Lipi have done their MFA from the Institute of Fine Arts, DU.

The exhibition proves beyond doubt that our women artists are both inspired and talented and take their work seriously.



Nazlee Laila Mansur

Kuhu

strokes of black and gray complete the composition with the looming orange disc of the sun. Farida has her PhD from Santiniketan and is the Head of the Department of Painting at the Institute of Fine Arts, Institute, DU, Akhtar Jahan Ivy's "Family" in bronze brought in a couple and their child in simplified elongated forms with cutaway semicircular portions at the bottom. Ivy too has studied at Santiniketan and now teaches at a school.

"Air, water and earth" in tempera was one of Rokeya Sultana's

composition in mixed media which brings in a singing bird, delicately perched in a cage. Lines and dots dominate her work. Naima too studied in India. Kuhu, another product of the Fine Arts Institute, DU, in her "Sound of silence", a charcoal and pencil work brings in a seated woman in a "burqa" boldly gazing out to destiny beyond her restricting veil. Kuhu has left a lot of the paper free and yet her subject dominates the paper with the quizzing gaze.

Kanak Champa Chakma's "Black

face in the inset, the painting with its detailed work carries one far into the world of dreams and star studded skies.

"Mirror of life" in acrylic on canvas by Fareha Zeba shows alienated figures with pain and indecision apparent on their faces. The main figure to the left is in simple shades of ochre and burnt sienna outlined with tracings of black while the woman who faces him with a quizzing gaze appears like almost a corpse in the shades of pale blue and brown. The other

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