

of newness and surprise certainly is nowhere to be found. The entries are predictable, in fact the relay of paintings -- the imagery on two dimensional surfaces -- may produce the strumming of the eyes, as many works simply seem like exercises in colour and lines.

The other mediums like graphic and sculpture may provide the breather one needs standing among works on canvas. However, one exceptional work that is sure to draw many a pair of eyes to its stark, but poetic realism is an acrylic on canvas by Ashraful Hasan. The work titled "Dhahan" (Burn-8) is a realist rendition of a tree trunk with entwined roots suggestive of human body parts. Compared to the black painting with blue patterns in it, by Uttam Kumar Roy, which grabbed the Young Artists' Award this year, this work seems like a feast for the eyes. The work felched the Best Award in Painting.

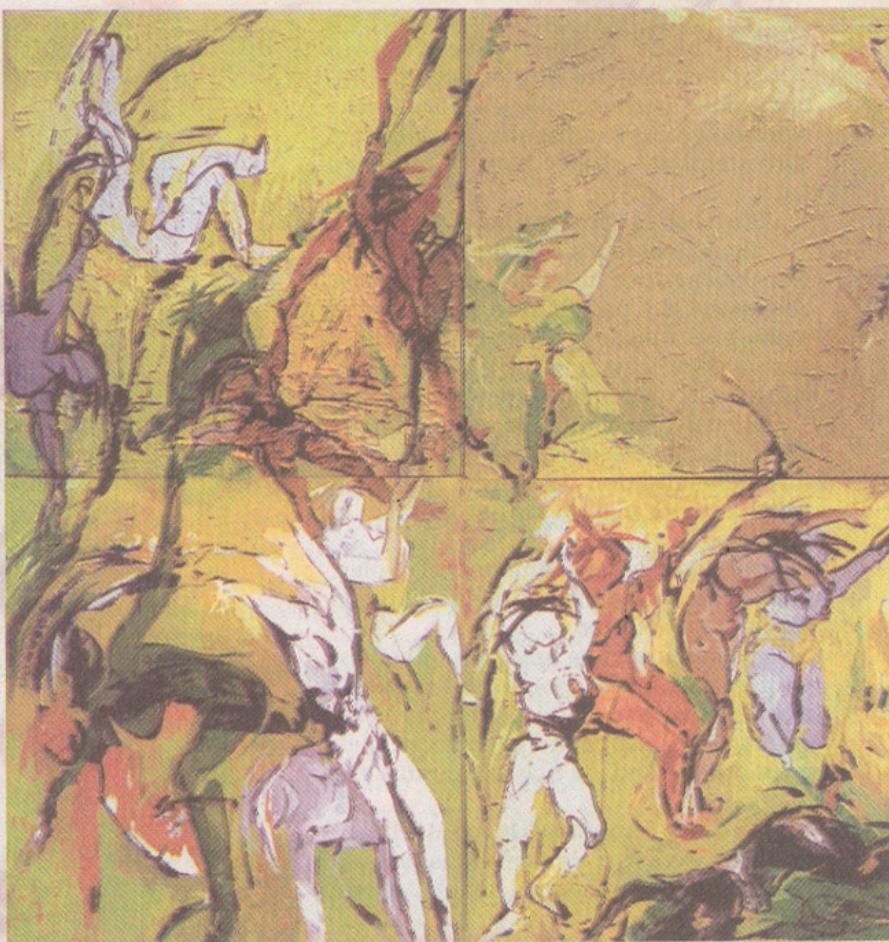
The Best Award in graphics was an exercise in black and white. A lithograph showing two bicycles on stand explores the beauty of line and chiaroscuro.

As for the three Honourable Mention awards, the brightness of colour seems to have won over the jury. The amassing of faces of world leaders and the appropriation of the last supper by Vinci in the works by Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash is the only painting that got the Honourable Mention award that explores a contemporary theme by juxtaposing it against history -- both of painting and the world.

The sculptors take the back seat in this show. Although few of the works takes up a lot of space, as their size and concept is overbearing, the creative energy seems to have hit the lowest ebb. Nurul Amin's ceramic structure that got the Best Award in sculpture builds on familiar methods.

The show that took three months of hard work on the part of the people involved in it, showcases the art world's newer denizens, who fails to deliver anything fresh in terms of concept and artistic language. Though, there are works belonging to the newer trends that thrived in shows organised by young exponents of the new-guard, but in the Shilpakala Show that trend in featured only with inferior entries.

Mustafa Zaman



Continuity from the Primitive by Sabira Shahinur



Nurul Islam's tapestry



Sadrul Hasan Rafi's Cosmic Life and It's Past Dream-3