

Against the Grain

An art camp that strove to induce a change in thinking as well as practice made many Dhakaites pay attention. Hand-picked by the expatriate artist Aziz Sharafi, the man who took the initiative, the participants were a motley combination of artists with differing inclinations and a few practicing architects. Sharafi and a fellow artist Nisar Hossain chalked out this plan for a smorgasbord of an exhibition last year. Their intention was to showcase the current global trends featuring all its serious and outlandish tendencies. The plan came to life as myriad of young exponents gathered to make their art in the two venues, one at Chitrak, Dhanmomi, road 4, and the other at an under-construction apartment next to it. Artists chose their space and installed either chosen objects or built on their own to express their ideas. Installations or conceptual arts, whatever one wishes to call the result of the creative actions that started on July 15 and ended on the 22, the works jarred with the conventional perception of art. The seven-day-long camp was also an occasion to exchange ideas and hold talks. La Galerie, Alliance Francaise, Dhaka, was the third venue where all the documents of the art works and the ideas that went behind them were put on display. The last day of the camp saw a discussion among the participants at La Galerie, it explored the present state and the future course of the new trend.

Photographs by Zahedul I Khan

1. Canchal's ironic examination of the trivial, which aligns match sticks and self-portraits in one series of images.
2. The installation by Shadhin addresses aids related issues and uses flimsy materials to indicate vulnerability.
3. Lala Rukh Selim's projection of reality with indigenous materials.
4. Saidul Haq Juice pinns his idea on critical analysis of fundamentalism.
5. Mahmud arranged for a visual feast consisting of a series of paintings and found objects.
6. Ronni Ahmed's work questions the very foundation of knowledge by negating interpretation of reality.
7. Nissar Hossain's black robe is a symbol of repression that women are constantly being subjected to in our society.

