

Cloisonne

An exquisite Chinese handicraft

AFSAR AHMED

EVER wondered what a Cloisonne is? In Beijing, people like to decorate their homes with Cloisonne articles. Young women love trinkets made from Cloisonne, like bracelets and earrings. Cloisonne articles are the most commonly used as gift items too. Most shops in hotels as well as tourist resorts sell Cloisonne articles, which range from big sacrificial utensils, screens, tables and chairs to small chopsticks, earrings, candy boxes, toothpicks and even the smoking items. They are works of art as well as articles with usage value. Moreover, the traditional bluish tinge and glittery thin copper strips attract people most.

The history of Cloisonne, a tradi-

tional enamelware, dates back to over 600 years. And Beijing is the cradle of Cloisonne technique. It is called the 'Blue of Jingtai' as blue is the dominant colour adopted for enameling. Cloisonne became prevalent during the reign of Jingtai (1426-1456) in the Ming dynasty, though the earliest extant Cloisonne was made in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). During the Jingtai period handicraftsmen found a dark-blue enamel which gave Cloisonne a gorgeous, solemn look and is still used today. Designs of chrysanthemums, grapes, flying cranes, lions and dragons were added to the flowers and foliage of the earlier period. In the Qing Dynasty, larger pieces like screens, tables and chairs,



Alluring cloisonne pot seen from different angles

even beds and couches were made from the enamel.

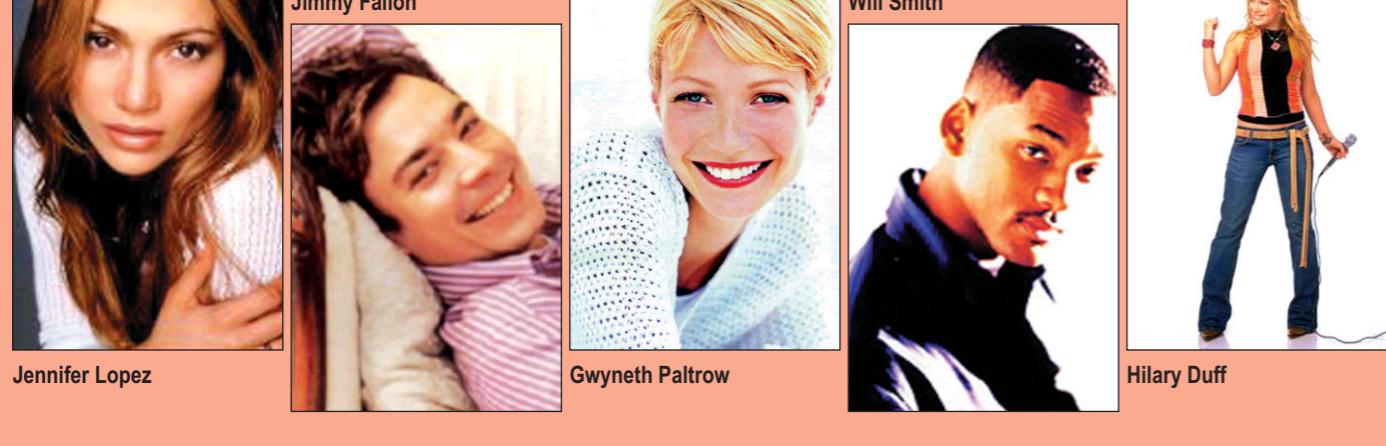
While visiting the famous Beijing Cloisonne Factory this correspondent got a vivid idea of this craftsmanship. The Beijing Cloisonne Factory, established in 1958, employs a staff of around 2,000 in both the mass production of consumer items and the creation of personalised art forms such as vases, boxes, lamp stands, ashtrays and dishes, as well as jewellery and other trinkets that are popular today.

An exquisite piece of Cloisonne must have colours that are moist and glossy, fresh and bright, a body that is substantive and sturdy, a wire inlay that is neat and well-proportioned, and gold plating that glitters. Its delicate appearance and splendid patterns should emit a classical warmth that rivets the gaze, and leaves one too infatuated to part with it. The making of Cloisonne integrates bronze and porcelain-working skills, traditional painting and etching. It is the pinnacle of traditional



A Chinese girl painting a cloisonne vase

J-Lo heads list of presenters at MTV Video Awards



Jennifer Lopez, Hilary Duff, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jimmy Fallon, and Will Smith are to present the 2004 MTV Video Music Awards.

And Nelly, featuring Christina Aguilera, and Alicia Keys join list of performers at the 21st annual awards

show on August 29 in Miami.

Nelly, featuring Christina Aguilera, will be performing 'Tilt Ya Head Back', a song from 'Sweat'—one of the two albums Nelly will release simultaneously in September. His music video, 'Shake Ya Tailfeather', is nominated in the Best

Hip-Hop Video category.

Christina Aguilera is nominated for two MTV Video Music Awards for 'The Voice Within' in the Best Female Video and Best Cinematography in a Video categories.

Alicia Keys will be performing her

massive hit song 'If I Ain't Got You' which is nominated for three awards—Best Female Video, Best R&B Video and Best Art Direction in a Video.

Source: Internet

Recalling wide open spaces

Tomoko Ogoshi's solo at Zainul gallery

FAYZA HAQ

Tomoko Ogoshi, who had her recent exhibition of prints at the Zainul Gallery, like most printmakers was once confined to paintings but moved over to print making when she realised that she could best express herself in prints. Tomoko is now an assistant lecturer in the Joshibi University of Art and Design. The teachers who guided her through her career as a student included Kiyomi Kato. In the west she names San Francis as the source of inspiration. In her childhood she traveled to London, Spain and China, and the vast expanses that she came across there still linger in her memory and affect her work. She went to school in London for a short period, and this she said, had a very relaxed atmosphere. She went to China after her master's degree, and there the Great Wall had overwhelmed her. In Spain, the great castle filled her with great wonder. The wide open spaces that she accosted during her travels still influences her work, which she had brought to Bangladesh.

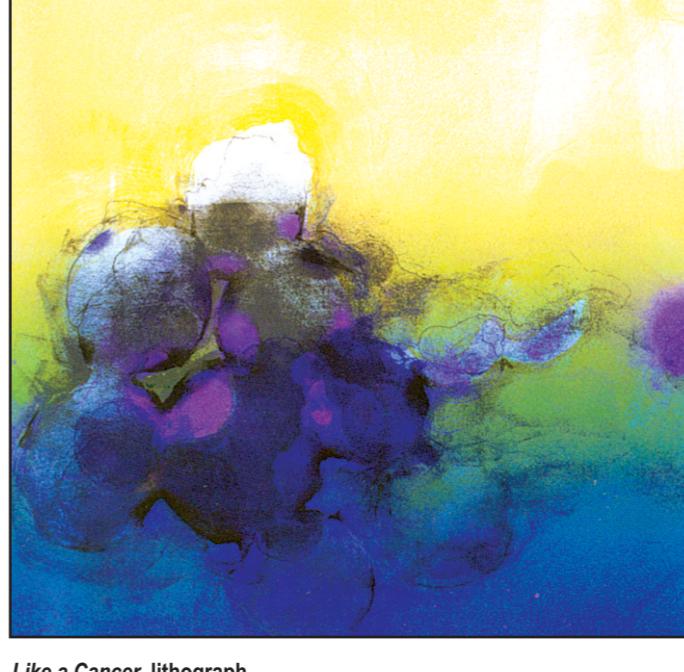
Tomoko was lucky to have her family support in her choice of a career, and in fact, her mother guided her with her drawing and colouring when she was a girl. In her work, Tomoko says, she brings in her own feelings and those of others around her. What she presents, in particular, is touch of the breeze, which we cannot see but can only feel, and which delights our mind and our senses.

As she goes about her work, Tomoko takes a readymade aluminium plate on which she works

with oil colour pencils. After that she gives the metal plate a water-colour wash. Next she gives her work a coating of Arabic gum. Then with a roller she applies colours. The press machine then absorbs the colour on the paper. If she wants an impression of four colours she would have to use four plates. Since she teaches at the university she can avail of the facility of the university printing machine and so has no problems in doing even large prints. Before she goes about the actual work she makes a sketch for it and then she works on the image on

the metal plate. She says that she does not force any image or colour to appear but works on what comes from within her.

Tomoko finds a good response to her work in her own country. She recently got the Yamaguchi Gen Newcomer Award at the 72nd exhibition of the Japanese Print Association at the age of 26. She hopes to have more achievement in future. The exhibit at Dhaka too has had a warm response. As an artist she has faced no difficulty. On the other hand, her work



Like a Cancer, lithograph



has got her in contact with many interesting people which has coloured her life. As for her prints, which were exhibited, she made them according to the measurements that her Bangladeshi mentor, GS Kabir, gave and had them flown. The 22 frames of metal and wood were waiting for her in Dhaka beforehand. These frames are used repeatedly as other artists come from Japan, under GS Kabir's guidance.

When she had a joint exhibit at Japan with two other colleagues, the person in charge of the Bangladeshi section in Chua Gallery, liked her work and invited her to come to Bangladesh. She says that her impression of Bangladesh has certainly changed in coming here. She finds the people energetic and communicative, characteristics which she couldn't have known just being in Japan. She found the women's traditional dress very aesthetic and enjoyed the food too.

Mock debate show raises funds for flood victims

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ON the evening of August 9 Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) organised an exhibition debate at the Bishwashahita Kendra Auditorium. Buying tickets pricing at Tk. 100.00, people of all ages gathered to watch this novel effort held to raise funds for the flood victims.

Three debates in three different formats and on three different motions were presented in this programme. Eminent poets of the country Rafique Azad and Mahadev Shaha along with famous actor-turned-politician Asaduzzaman Noor and editor of the *Dainik Bhoror Kagoj* Abed Khan were the debaters of the first debate. "It's time for the politicians not to poe to walk against the wind" was the motion. Speaker of this parliamentary-style round was Kazi Tinni Binte Zinnat, a student of class ten from Viqarunnisa Noon School & College. Poets are not like that."

Interestingly, the two poets had to speak in favour of the topic while politician Noor and political observer Abed Khan had to satnd against it. Rafique Azad cited from the prehistoric days that poets were never

considered to be a part of the nation. 'Plato banished the poets from his ideal state. Even today when millions live in terrible misery caused by drastic flood, a poet has much more to do than writing verses,' he said.

The second speaker Noor however opposed the poet. He raised the question that if asked who is to blame for the present state of the country, undoubtedly everyone would point at the politicians. 'Politicians have little sense in serving the people and keeping words,' he said. Assessing himself as a politician Noor said, 'Look at me—I was supposed to arrive by 5pm whereas I reached at 6:15pm. This is our sense of being punctual! I used to act in front of the camera; now I act in the parliament with other politicians. Poets are not like that.'

Poet Mahadev Shaha assessed once again how wrong it is to consider the poets as leaders of the nation. 'Poets and politics can never mix. Poets seek isolation and long for alienation. Therefore it is impossible and unrealistic to hope for their leadership,' he argued.

The last debater Abed Khan spoke of a hopeful dream. He foresees the poets as 'the lighthouse amid the sea of hopelessness'. 'In the darkest hour



they are the healing power,' he said. He pointed out how the simple verses lifted the spirits of the freedom fighters in the country during 1971. Therefore, they alone can guide us through the turmoil which we badly need at present.

Credits should go to the young Speaker who conducted the mock parliamentary debate with these eminent figures. Though ended without any result, the debate was an

enjoyable one.

The second debate was presented on 'Neutralism in our country is synonymous to hypocrisy', while 'Dreams come to life only in dreams today' was the topic of the final debate.

The money raised from this charity show will be donated for the flood affected people.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am; 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm. Late Night News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am. Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm. News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

CHANNEL-i

09:45 *Tritiyo Matra*
10:45 *Na Bola Kotha*
11:30 *Din Choley Jay*
12:00 *Chithi Pelam*
12:30 *Aj Dupurey O*
Citycell
Tarokakothon (Live)
01:00 *Eboni Cinemar*
01:25 *Public reaction*
01:30 *Bangla Film: Dosti*
04:00 *Bangla gaan*
04:30 *Dekhara Gaan*
05:00 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
05:45 *Sharif Melamine*
06:10 *Music Plus*
06:45 *Drama Serial: Abash*
07:50 *Drama Serial: Dr. Mahtaber Swapno*
08:25 *Drama Serial: Boyosh Jakhon*
09:35 *Hridoye Mati O*
10:00 *Drama Serial: Amader Chhobi*

ATN BANGLA

10:30 *Anodrishtee*
11:15 *Mohona*
11:50 *Rock & Rhythm*
12:30 *Drama Serial: Duronto Ghumi*
01:05 *Musical Programme*
01:35 *Chaloman Desh*
02:30 *School Bell*
03:10 *Drama Serial: Shirsho Bindu*
03:45 *Uro Cola Saat Rang*
04:20 *Shuler Gaan Gai*
05:10 *Shuler Maduri*
06:20 *Tom and Jerry*

CH-1

08:00 *Drama Serial: Kajlar Ghate Agni Utshab*
08:30 *Drama Serial: Anto Neel Beguni*
09:00 *Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni*
09:30 *Drama Serial: Baba Chanchalokar Marmala*
10:30 *Bangla Film: Jid Gaan*
12:20 *Aajker Shakal Moniher*
08:00 *Shaptaher Khabor*
09:30 *Expedition To Animal Kingdom*
10:05 *Shonar Gaan Dhakar Cinema*
11:00 *Ronger Manush*
02:30 *Sangeetmala*
03:05 *Pepsi Music Express*
04:20 *Pratibimba*
04:25 *Gallery*
05:15 *Iltiasher El Diney*
05:20 *Apran Jiggesha*
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
06:55 *Shangshkoti ei Shopato*
08:15 *Drama Serial: Tin Purush*
08:50 *Drama Serial: Achin Ragini*
11:25 *Dindarpan*

TARA BANGLA

1:00 *Filmi Furti*
2:00 *Taka Na Sona*
2:30 *Bengali Feature Film*
5:00 *Bastab*
6:00 *Hannir Khabar*
6:30 *Sree Na Sona*
7:00 *Sree Ramkrishna One*
7:30 *Tara Sundari*
8:00 *Tele Film*
9:30 *E To Noi Sudhur*
10:30 *Post Mortem*
10:45 *Shuler Gaan Gai*
11:00 *Fully Fatafat Fantas*

HBO

10:15 *Balto 2 : The Wolf Quest*
11:45 *The Avengers*
13:45 *Solo*
14:45 *Body Snatchers*
11:45 *Panic Room*
10:15 *Sabretooth*
11:00 *Driven To Succeed*
12:30 *In Hell*
2:15 *Hollywood One On One*

STAR MOVIES

9:15 *Saturday Matinee : Aks*
11:00 *8mm*
12:30 *Disney Hour*
2:45 *Dragonheart*
4:30 *The Ticket*
6:00 *Music Mantra*
6:30 *CID Files*
7:00 *Psycho*
7:30 *Crossroads*
8:45 *Sat. Cine Prime : Mojave Moon*
10:15 *Fully Fatafat Fantas*

SONY

11:50 *Midnight Mass Out Of Africa*
12:30 *Cook it up with Tarla Dalal*
1:30 *Agnee (Mithun, Amrita Singh)*
2:05 *Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet (Salman, Sanjay Dutt)*
2:30 *Mirch Masala*
3:00 *Musafir Hoon Yaron (Govinda, Rani Mukerji)*
3:30 *Hadi Kar Di Apne (Govinda, Rani Mukerji)*
4:00 *Calcutta Mail (Anil Kapoor, Rani Mukerji)*
4:30 *Meri Mrs Chanchala*
5:00 *Yatra*
7:25 *Film Topper - 301 Series*
7:30 *Piya Bina*
8:00 *Pardey Ke Peechey*
8:30 *Hera Pheri - Movies*
9:00 *Yatra*

SONY

1:30 *Saturday Matinee : Aks*
2:30 *Charbusters*
3:00 *Music Mantra*
3:30 *CID Files*
4:00 *Psycho*
4:30 *Crossroads*
5:00 *Sat. Cine Prime : Mojave Moon*
6:30 *Crossroads*
7:00 *Psycho*
7:30 *CID Files*
8:00 *Psycho*
8:30 *Sat. Cine Prime : Mojave Moon*
9:00 *Psycho*
9:30 *CID Files*
10:00 *Psycho*

STAR PLUS

1:00 *Star Bestsellers*
2:05 *Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet (Salman, Sanjay Dutt)*
2: