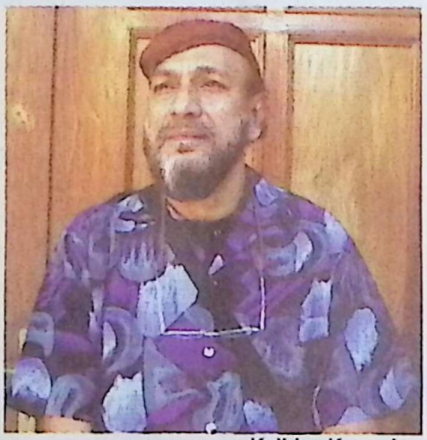
# Kalidas' sojourn in New York

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Kalidas Karmakar is an artist who is well known in the international art circuit. Yet every time he visits a country, art lovers are sure to expect something new. Kalidas's recent visit to New York was to take part in for an Artist in Residence programme from the Asian Cultural Council, New York. The council is responsible for artistic and cultural exchange between countries. The ACC's programme was for three months. They provided Kalidas with a studio in Brooklyn Point B work lodge plus some funds to support his residency there. With the fellowship he did his own work and visited galleries, museums and artists to feel their cultural trends.



Kalidas Karmakar



Alluvial Reality. Acrylic- mixed media on canvas.

"I visited New York over 25 times but always as a tourist. This is the first time I went as a working artist. There were eight studios in one complex bringing artists from all over the wold. They included architects, photographers, digital artists and painters, " Kalidas says.

During his stay he not only did research on his work but met different artists of various mediums from different countries. He met 39 artists from over 36 countries who visited that area. Thus there was a cultural exchange between Bangladesh, Middle East, the Pacific regions, Europe and South America. Incidentally, Mauritio Salaza from Venezuela followed Kalidas around for three months with his camera. In the process he took over 5,000 pictures based on Kalidas's activities and selected some pictures, and made a DVD of his stay in New York. Kalidas, meeting people from around the world, learnt from them.

In his stay he did over 100 works , which included 35 big paintings. There were 200 sketches and drawings as well."From my window I could see only the sky with the birds and clouds, and when I shut the door, I shut myself from the rest of the world. Through the skylight you could see the rain and snow. There was no interruption while you worked. I think I did two years' work in my three months' stay. I continued my own style but the social and political unrest back in my country which I read about in the internet influenced me tremendously. The agony and