

# Selected graphics and drawings

Murtaja Baseer's solo exhibition at Galleri Kaya



Bloody 21st

ERSHAD KAMOL

THOUGH eminent artist Murtaja Baseer is known for his paintings, he has done noteworthy works in other mediums as well, such as drawings and graphics. To celebrate the 75th birthday of the veteran artist, Galleri Kaya at Uttara has arranged a unique exhibition titled Selected Graphics and Drawings by Murtaja Baseer. The exhibition that began on August 17 ends today. The exhibition features works of Baseer during his student life to contemporary times. Eighty-eight drawings and 49 prints covering five

decades reflect a journey into the artist's life.

Each of the canvases on display narrates turning points in Baseer's career: His urge to overcome limitations and coup d'état new ideas and styles. Most of the works are part of his academic learning process in Dhaka, Kolkata, Florence, Lahore and Paris. His mentionable drawings and prints in different mediums -- pen and ink, brush and ink, pen-ink-pastel, pen-ink-watercolour, colour pencil, pencil and white chalk, aquatint, and etching, carborundum and aquatint, aquatint and burin, dry point and

aquatint, dry point and linocut -- are on display. The exhibition also features his works while staying in Chittagong, Karachi, Santa Fe, London and Cairo.

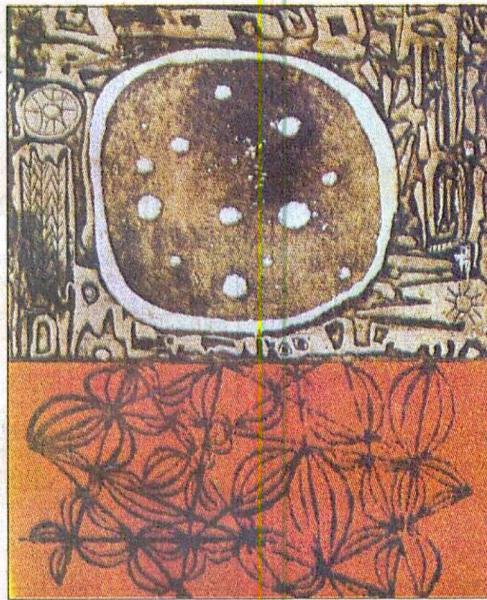
As a student of Fine Arts, Baseer got 24 out of 50 in an examination from his mentor Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. This incident had a huge impact on the artist, which motivated him to work harder to overcome his limitations. Other pieces done during the initial stage are *Bloody 21st*, a linocut; a woodcut titled *A Lane* and *A Lane 2* with pen and ink.

His participation at an art appreciation course in 1954 in Kolkata at the Ashutosh Museum brought about another change in Baseer's creativity. He studied at the institute on sculpture and linocut. Works done by Baseer during that

time that are on display at the exhibition include *Shoe-shine Boy*, *Birihala* and *A Lane at Night*. During that period Baseer was also influenced by artist Paritosh Sen's style of presenting figures in geometric shapes.

Between 1956 and '58 Baseer went for higher studies in Florence and developed his skill in 'transparencism'. This translucent effect is found in many of his works such as *Sonnambular Ballad*, *The Gypsy*, *Museum Study* and *Man With Accordion*. Another feature of his learning in Florence is nudism. *Artist and Model*, *Reclining Nude*, *Sitting Nude 1 and 2*, *Museum Study* and *Sitting Nude* done in pen and ink are the examples of nudism by Baseer.

Marriage provided another turning point in Baseer's style. He



Composition 1980

## Update

### Finalists of LUX Channel-i Super Star '07

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

LUX in association with Channel-i first launched the LUX Channel-i Super Star contest in 2005. Shanarei Devi Shanu became the

first LUX Channel-i Superstar.

The following year the contest was back in a grander avatar. Winner of the contest was promised instant stardom -- an opportunity to play the lead role in a major film.

The event generated a huge response as thousands of talented, young women registered. Zakia Bari Momo won the contest and the role of Jori in Tauquir Ahmed's film *Daruchini Dwip*.

This year LUX Channel-i Superstar was launched in June. Thousands registered from all over the country, chasing the dream of becoming a star; only ten made it to the finals. As they get closer to the grand finale, the contestants are getting more persistent and committed to win the title.

Here's a quick look at the ten finalists who have made it to the top.

**Farah Diba:** A confident young woman, Diba tries her best to combine beauty with talent. She has crossed several obstacles to get to her current position.

**Sheikh Samroz Azmi Alvi:** A student of BBA, Alvi's talents include recitation. She considers this contest as a window to her dreams.

**Ambia Sarzin Amrin:** Amrin is doing her diploma in Interior Design. She is also interested in Photography.

**Sumaiya Asgar Raha:** Sumaiya considers this contest as the biggest challenge she has faced so far. She has just completed her SSC.

**Nafisa Ferdous:** Nafisa will take her SSC exams next year. Despite being

the youngest of all finalists she is very confident.

**Upoma Bishwas:** Upoma is studying LLB. An ardent fan of Marilyn Monroe, Upoma wants to do something for the country.

**Morsheda Khan Urm:** Urm is an Honours student. She has always wanted to be a model and after making it to the finals of LUX Channel-i Superstar, she is more optimistic than ever.

**Bidya Sinha Saha:** Bidya considers herself as one of the most deserving of the title. She wants to lay a hand in establishing the equal rights for women.

**Joya Roy:** An Honours student, Joya is a talented singer. She is a staff artist at the Thakurgaon radio station. She considers Subarna Mustafa as her idol and her favourite singer is Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna.

**Farhana Sharin Faria:** A student of Law, Faria is passionate about Bangla songs. She has participated in several cultural contests and won prizes.

LUX Channel-i Superstar is aired every Friday at 8:00pm and Sunday at 9:30pm.



The ten finalists of LUX Channel-i Superstar '07

## Dilip Kumar-Saira Banu: Made for each other

Conjure up Bollywood star couples and the newer names that come to mind are Abhishek Bachchan-Aishwarya Rai, Kajol-Ajay Devgan and Akshay Kumar-Twinkle Khanna. Going back in time there are Amitabh Bachchan-Jaya Bhaduri and Dilip Kumar-Saira Banu. This is an opportune moment to zero in on the latter as Saira Banu celebrated her 63rd birthday on August 23.

Of the Dilip-Saira duo, Dilip or Yusuf Khan has definitely hogged the limelight with hit films such as the early *Jugnu* (1947), *Andaz* (1949), *Devdas* (1955), *Madhumati* (1958), *Mughal-E-Azam* (1960), *Ram Aur Shyam* (1967) and the 1981 multi-starrer *Kranti*. He went on to play character roles as an elderly family patriarch in *Shakti* (1982), *Vidhaata* (1982) and *Karma* (1986). His last major success was *Saudagar* in 1999 where he teamed up with legendary actor Raj Kumar after a three decade break since they last appeared in *Paigam* (1959). He made his last film appearance in the not-so-successful *Qila* (1998) and has since taken a bow from the film industry.

Needless to say, Dilip Kumar has bagged many an award -- In 1992 he won the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award for his contri-



butions to the film industry. Prior to this, he was the winner of the best actor awards for *Ganga Jamuna* (1961), *Kohinoor* (1960), *Naya Daur* (1957), *Devdas* (1956) to *Daag* (1953), among others.

Dilip's personal life too was busy. Despite his alleged link ups with actresses Kamini Kaushal and

Madhubala, he went on to marry the beautiful actress Saira Banu in 1966. This got the tabloids buzzing as he was at the time 44 and she 22. Prophets of doom predicted the high profile couple would not last long together. However, their marriage has been one of the longest lasting in Bollywood.

Saira Banu, the other half, made her screen debut in *Junglee* (dated 1961) opposite Shammi Kapoor. The film earned Saira her first Filmfare nomination as the best actress. Though her childhood was spent largely in London and she went to a finishing school, she slipped easily into the role of village belles. She became a successful name through the 1960s and 1970s. Since her marriage to Dilip, she kept an eye open for challenging roles.

However, she met with limited success as an actress after *Gopi*, *Sagina* and *Bairaag* (all with her husband) and films like Hrishikesh Mukherjee's *Chaitali*. Nevertheless, Saira went on to garner more recognition: she earned three additional Filmfare nominations as best actress for *Shagird* (1967), *Diwana* (1968) and *Sagina* (1974). In 1976, she decided to exit from the hurly burly film industry. In the intervening years she has successfully kept her marriage intact, did a cameo opposite Dilip in a film called *Duniya* (1984) and evolved into a television producer.

Though now past their prime, the Dilip-Saira couple continues to attract attention through their charisma and talent.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

## Theatre festival in aid of flood victims

"Raarang" staged

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To lend a hand to the flood victims, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) have jointly arranged a theatre

festival at the National Theatre Stage. The eight-day festival began yesterday (August 30). Aranyak Natya Dal staged their popular play *Raarang*, by Mamunur Rashid, on the opening day.

Through the assassination of Alfred Shoren, a young Santal leader, *Raarang* depicts a story of oppression on Santals by Bengalis in the northern part of Bangladesh. Mamunur Rashid is the director of the play.



Self portrait

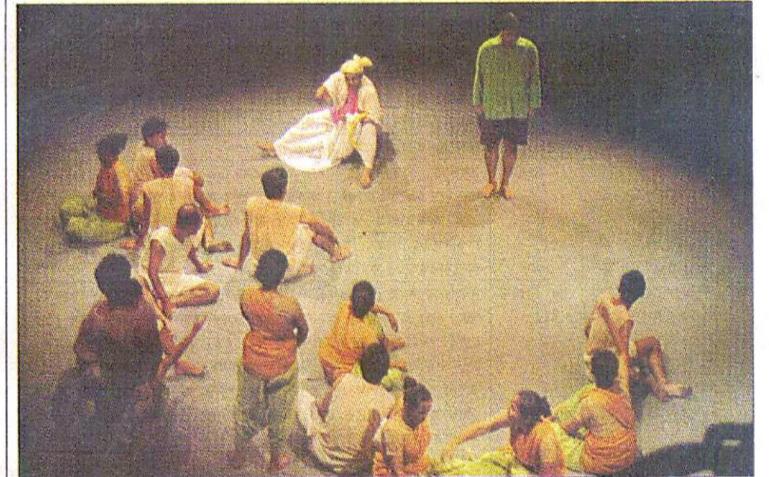
began using colours like golden, red and silver after his marriage and his canvases became more structured. A lot of drawings featuring the blissful beauty of female faces as well as gestures of different emotions are on display at Galleri Kaya.

The ongoing exhibition also displays prints and drawings -- *Boy With Caged Bird*, *Parrot 2*, *Pigeons 1*, *Women With Pearl Necklace 1* -- featuring the instability in East Pakistan in the 1960s. These works were done by the artist in Lahore. Use of abstraction is a noticeable feature in these works. The *Wall* series at the exhibition is an example of the initial stage of abstract art by Baseer.

Murtaja Baseer stayed in Paris in the early 1970s. Paris had a remarkable impact on the artist. Thirty-two innovative works in a new medium called aquatint, done in Paris, are worth mentioning. Neat, controlled lines hold combinations of subtle and darker hues to create surrealistic effects. *Bangladesh 71*, done in dry point and aquatint in Paris, portrays the Liberation War.

The *Wings* series done in the late '90s demonstrate a new phase. The artist began using delicate lines in drawings and prints. Twenty-nine drawings done with pen and ink in 2007 by the artist are on display.

An attraction at the exhibition is Baseer's Shilpakala Academy Award winning work *Epitaph*. The seasoned artist has received the Ekushey Padak in 1980 for his remarkable contribution to Bangladeshi art.



Actors of Aranyak Natya Dal in Raarang

## "Daruchini Dwip" on Channel-i today

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The much-hyped film *Daruchini Dwip* will have its world premier today at 2:40pm on Channel-i.

The film is based on Humayun Ahmed's popular book with the same title.

The movie generated buzz for its link with last year's *LUX Channel-i Super Star '06*. Winner of the contest, Momo, won the lead role in the film.

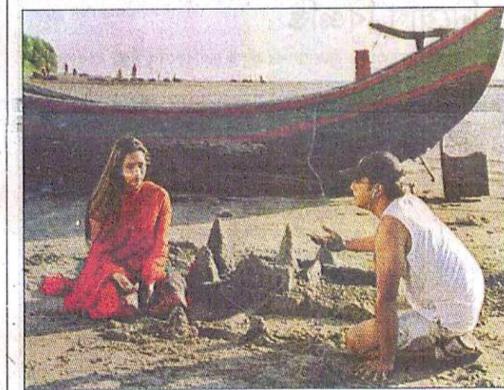
The story of the film revolves around a group of adventurous university students who decide to

go to *Daruchini Dwip* aka St. Martin's Island. On the way, they encounter several hurdles.

Shubho, sole heir to a rich family, who has rarely done something on his own, has very little idea about the harsh reality outside the comforts of his home. When he decides to be a part of the trip to St. Martin's, his father becomes wary and tries to prevent him from going there. Jori's father is physically disabled. The family lives in her uncle's house. The uncle is all set to marry her off to an affluent groom who is far from what Jori wants in a husband. Other characters in the film include Shonju, Muna and Boltu, who have their own predicaments. In the end everyone faces their obstacles and set off on their journey to *Daruchini Dwip*.

The two central roles of the movie -- Shubho and Jori -- are played by Riaz and Momo. Abul Hayat, Asaduzzaman Noor, Fazlur Rahmat Babu, Afroza Banu, Abdullah Al Mamun, Dolly Zahur and Wahida Mallick Jolly have played other central roles.

Produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd, the film is directed by Tauquir Ahmed.



A scene from Daruchini Dwip

## Cultural programme at Rangamati Charukala Academy

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

The lone art school in the hill town of Rangamati -- Rangamati Charukala Academy -- was abuzz with cultural activities recently. Child artists of the Academy performed dances, and songs in Chakma, Tangchangya and Bangla at the programme held at the academy auditorium.

Md. Abdul Moyeen psc, commander of 305 infantry brigade of Rangamati addressed the function as chief guest while sadar zone commander (CO) Md. Mainul Hossain Chowdhury attended the event as special guest. Principal of

Charukala Academy Ratikanta Tangchangya, a member of Rangamati Hill District Council, chaired the programme.

Charukala Academy teachers Md. Rezaul Karim, Joyshree Barua and parents of the students also attended the programme.

Md. Abdul Moyeen in his speech

assured all kinds of assistance to the Charukala Academy, including providing the institution with its own art gallery.

Rangamati Charukala Academy has so far received 57 awards, of which 17 are gold medals and 6 international awards in painting, dance and music.

**Citi Financial Quiz Competition 2007**  
Every Friday at 6pm and Saturday at 6:20pm  
Only on Channel i

## Venice Film Festival gets star-studded opening

This year's Venice Film Festival -- celebrating its 75th anniversary -- also sees the premiere of Kenneth Branagh's thriller *Sleuth*, with Sir Michael Caine and Jude Law.

Among the arrivals on the first day were Rupert Everett and Vanessa Redgrave and director Jane Campion.

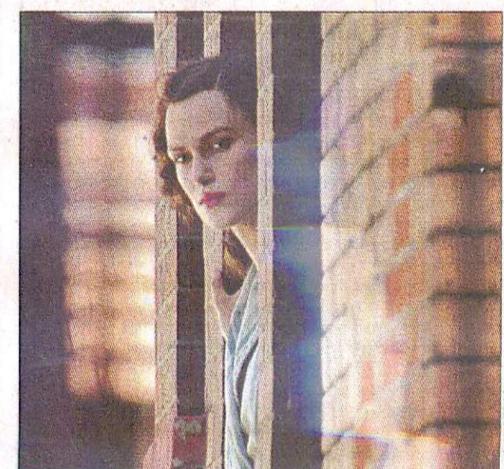
The key winners will be unveiled at the festival's climax on September 8.

Ang Lee, who won the festival's top prize -- the coveted Golden Lion -- in 2005 for *Brokeback Mountain*, will unveil his new film *Lust, Caution*.

Filmmaker Tim Burton, whose credits include *Edward Scissorhands* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, will be honoured with the Golden Lion lifetime achievement award.

Other films in the main competition include *Michael Clayton*, a thriller starring George Clooney, while Brad Pitt is expected in the Italian city for the debut of his western, *The Assassination of Jesse James*.

Woody Allen's latest project, *Cassandra*, will also be shown, with an appearance by its stars Colin Farrell and Ewan McGregor.



Keira Knightley in Atonement

A series of Spaghetti westerns, curated by director Quentin Tarantino will also run throughout the festival.

*Atonement*, based on the best-selling novel by Ian McEwan, is the second feature film from 35-year-old director Joe Wright. The film is already being touted as having Oscar potential, including the

performance of Keira Knightley. Knightley told a Venice news conference that McEwan's novel was "a beautifully drawn character study".

At last year's Venice festival, Dame Helen Mirren took the best actress prize for her role in *The Queen*, and went on to win a host of honours culminating in an Oscar.

Taiwanese authorities have protested about the festival listing Ang Lee's film as originating from Taiwan, China -- suggesting the island state is still part of the People's Republic.

China and Taiwan set up separate governments in 1949, but Beijing still considers Taiwan as part of its territory.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council blamed China for influencing the festival programme, saying "the black hand of China has entered the pure world of art" in a statement on its website.

China's state-run China Film Group, which is distributing *Lust, Caution* on the mainland, said they were not involved in any lobbying to secure the Taiwan, China label.

Source: BBC News