

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Memories and Desire
Artist: Najma Akhter
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dacca, 26 Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: October 17-29
Time: 9am-12pm, 5pm-8pm (Saturdays 5pm-8pm)



Photography Exhibition

Title: Heresies
Photographer: Pedro Meyer (Mexico)
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: October 9-20
Time: 3pm-8pm
Inauguration: October 8 at 5pm



Bonsai Exhibition

Organiser: Bonsai Society
Venue: WVA Auditorium, Rd 27, Dhanmondi
Date: October 16-18
Time: 10am-8pm (Oct. 16: 1pm-8pm)



Srotar Ashor

Organiser: Chhayana
Venue: Rameshchandra Datta Smriti Mandir, Chhayana, Sanskrit Bhaban
Date: October 16
Artistes: Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Laiba Ahmed Lisa, Rezaul Karim, Latifun Julo, Nandita Dutta Dhara

Najma Akhter: In quest of purity

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Najma Akhter embarked on her voyage from Oriental to abstract art in 2003. As a student of the Oriental Department, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, she was immersed in portraying human relationships and nature. Eventually Najma realised that the rigours of Oriental art were not suitable for her modernistic sensibili-

ties. She then entered into in a new orbit of lines, colours, forms and texture when she found a dominant facet in art, which is distinctive, imaginative and cerebral. To art lovers, her works appear as pieces of cloud where she cultivates her agony, yearning, happiness and desire.

Najma is a passionate painter whose primary aim is to express her inner world through art. Her soul is always



Paintings by Najma Akhter

in search of a space where emerald green, azure, crimson and yellow come together to represent great affliction and ecstasy. Her space is filled up sometimes with bright and, at other times paradoxically, subdued colours.

Najma's recent solo exhibition in Penang, Malaysia and another solo display in, 2006 gave a great boost to her confidence and her passion for abstract art. Her abstraction is colour and form oriented. Some motifs of her paintings have been taken from nature and the deep ocean is a recurring theme in her works in which she finds

ever-changing mysterious chapters.

At her ongoing solo exhibition at Alliance Francaise, Dhaka, a number of works depict the scenic beauty of Penang Hill. The mysterious mountains are featured in her paintings in a lively and animated style.

At present, Najma likes to work in acrylic, which she feels is a medium where an artist gets a taste of tranquillity. Najma is comfortable working on any size of canvas according to the painting's theme and composition. Her work is elucidated by a powerful engage-

ment with object and space, and with bold and sweeping brushstrokes.

Najma has played with texture and illusion for surface effects. Space has been created on the canvas although some of the colours have been applied flat.

Another aspect of Najma's work is her manifestation of the aesthetic elements. Her work has a soothing effect and she tries to avoid extraneous objects.

Najma's solo exhibition at Alliance Francaise de Dacca is on till October 29.

The writer is a freelance contributor.

Movie Watch

"The Secret Life of Bees": A sweet dollop of Hollywood clichés

In an age when Will Smith is the world's most popular movie star and Barack Obama could well be elected president, it's fair to ask: Isn't it time that Hollywood took a sabbatical -- maybe a permanent one -- from movies in which black characters exist primarily to save the souls of white ones?

In the screen version of Sue Monk Kidd's smash-hit novel The Secret Life of Bees, 14-year-old Lily Owens (Dakota Fanning) escapes the clutches of her redneck father (Paul Bettany) in 1964 South Carolina by running away from home, accompanied by her caretaker, Rosaleen (Jennifer Hudson), who is wanted by the police. (She had dared to insult the racists who tried to prevent her from registering to vote.) In a small-town general store, Lily spots a jar of honey with the mysterious image of a black Madonna on the label. Seeking the source of the jar, she and Rosaleen meet August Boatwright (Queen Latifah), a maternal beekeeper who lives in a cosy pink house and is just as hearty and sweet as the honey bees she harvests. The two are invited to stay for the while, and so they move in, go to work, and get to know August and her sisters: the regal, gifted June (Alicia Keys), who teaches cello and lowers her shield of pride for no one, and the childlike May (Sophie Okonedo), who is prone to sudden crying jags.

When you read The Secret Life of Bees, you know why the book sold 5 million copies. Kidd is a seductive writer, with a voice that carries just enough moonlight and magnolias to evoke the desultory Southern lyricism of To Kill a Mockingbird. Each character vibrates with mystery. In the

movie version, adapted by writer-director Gina Prince-Bythewood (Love & Basketball), the architecture of the plot is about all that remains, apart from a few stray thoughts about queen bees as metaphors. The film has no poetry or atmosphere; it presents the Boathouse women as TV-movie wisps of characters. Latifah glows with benevolent strength, Keys glowers like she's warming up to star in The Angela Davis Story, and Okonedo is a tremulous wallflower. This has the unfortunate effect -- far different from the book's -- of making it seem as if these women had been placed on earth in order to help one confused, distraught white girl find her way.

Fanning may look 14, but perhaps because she's been playing precocious kids for so long, she still acts younger. Her connection

to the death of her mother is a big event that haunts the movie far too mechanically.

Over the years, the audiences have seen too many anachronistic "magic Negroes" in movies like Forrest Gump and The Green Mile. The saintly African-American matriarchy of The Secret Life of Bees may appear benign by comparison. Yet the film, set in the civil rights era, has a dated, musty piety that too often evokes the liberal message mongering of that time. The Secret Life of Bees is a lesson -- or, rather, a whole series of them -- moviegoers no longer need to learn. Of course, it's also a divine-sisterhood-defeats-all chick flick, and on that score there's no denying that its clichés are rouisngly up to date.

Source: Internet



Dakota Fanning and Queen Latifah in "The Secret Life of Bees."

On Air advertisement with a television icon and text: 'All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.'

TV schedule table with columns for time, channel, and program name. Includes Public Reaction, Gramsen Phone Tiritomatra, Amader Aaina, Mukto Bazaar Orthoniti, etc.

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TV schedule table with columns for time, channel, and program name. Includes Lake Placid 2, STAR WORLD, Beauty And The Geek, etc.

News Bulletin advertisement for various channels including BTv, ATN BANGLA, Channel 1, and Channel-i, listing news and program times.

Advertisement for the drama serial 'Nogorey Nagorik' on Banglavisision at 8:25 pm, featuring Tomalika Karmakar and Sharmin Shila.

Advertisement for the movie 'Mission: Impossible III' on HBO at 9:30 pm, featuring Tom Cruise, Michelle Monaghan, and Laurence Fishburne.