churches to study the paintings on the walls. Among the portraits that Kiriti has done he feels that the portraits of those he admires immensely have turned out best such as that of SM Sultan, the film director Ritwik Ghattak, and writer and cultural activist Wahidul Haque. He enjoys doing work with the subject sitting for him, nor really caring too much about the financial gains from these paintings.

"As I'm linked with cultural activities such as that of 'Uddichi' my portraits capture faces of those who have excelled in the cultural field," says Kiriti. "I think that capturing the expression of the subject is vital." He aims at more than photographic representation. "The paintings should appear to be speaking to you," he says. In this exhibition he has tried to bring in those who've contributed most to our society here in Bangladesh, like Titumir and Surjya Sen, beginning with the time of rebellion against the British, two centuries back.

In this exhibition Kiriti has tried to bring in those who have contributed most to our society.

"My aim is to hold up for the new generation the personalities who have contributed most to our culture and Bangali origin. It is with difficulty that I managed to do the portrait of Surjo Sen, who originated from Bangladesh. Portraits of Titumir and Khudi Ram are rare and are often only basic sketches that go with 'puthis' and done by amateurs. I've been tracing them down for 12 years. Surjya Sen's assistant, Binod Bihari Chowdhury helped me get Surjya Sen's portrait after years of my research, here and in India.

Kiriti has also done portraits of the four national leaders Tajuddin Ahmed, Syed Nazrul, Qamruzzman, and Mansur Ali.

He paints at night, after his duty in his office, on holidays, and in between his allotted work at the office. He works on each portrait at a time, using oil and sometimes with poster colour with a dry brush. He enjoys oil the most as it is easier to manipulate. ■

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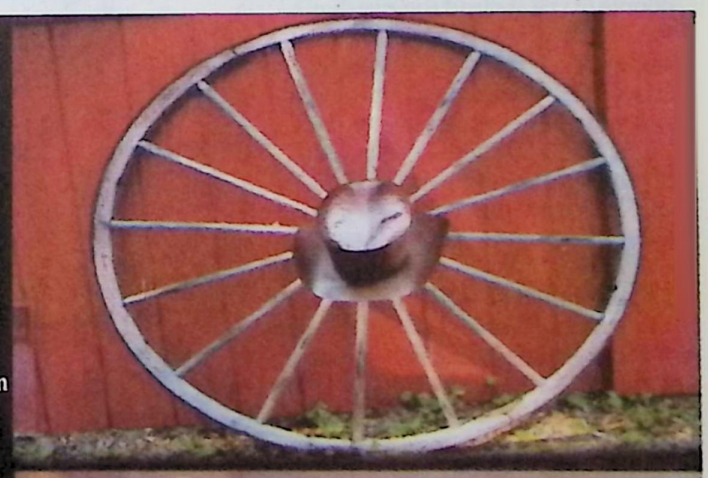
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