

The Light, Fantastic Touch of Impressionism

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Masuma Khan -- who has had more than a dozen solo exhibitions and has taught children's painting at both Alliance Francaise and Goethe -Institut-- has her ongoing exhibition at Zoom Gallery. The artist's optimism despite the struggles of life, is reflected in her paintings; she enjoys painting doves, deer, streams, flowers and blue skies. "Basically I enjoy doing water-colour and acrylic. Recently I've cut down on oils as it takes more time," she says. Masuma did her graduation from the Institute of Fine Arts, DU, with Rafqun Nabi and Monirul Islam as her teachers. "Both these artists excel in water-colour and I naturally try to emulate them in my own way, combining impressionism with realism. The French impressionists like Cezanne had an enormous impact on me, and in my work I try to bring in their light, fantastic touch. My experience in the workshop conducted by Hela, a German artist, also had great impact on me in 1995," she adds.



Touching on the standard of painting in Bangladesh, Masuma says that although we are not a rich country, going by material achievements, yet judging by the rich flow of fine arts, it is as good as any other young country. "My contemporaries like Monsurul Karim, have achieved quite a bit since they came into the profession. Each of them has a style of his/her own, such as the remarkable ones by Qayyum Chowdhury and Rafiqun Nabi. To achieve this they've had to struggle and work incessantly. The women artists too have their remarkable contributions. Even in their student days it was not possible for them to go out in boats to far off country sides, to study nature and its beauties, as their male counterparts did", she says.

Masuma has tried to bring in water-colour plus acrylic in her recent experimental work, to "introduce something novel in my paintings so that the viewer is not bored".

"I've been satisfied with the result," says Masuma. About her work process the artist says that she does not paint for hours on end, often taking breaks to listen to music or watch TV. At times, she says the gaps in between her work maybe even as much as a month. Again, my art preoccupies me sometimes even when I'm out in roadside, viewing objects around me. For me reveries, and hopes comprise important parts of my themes. Often my work emerges from sketches on paper," says Masuma.

The exhibition is on till April 17.