National Art Exhibition

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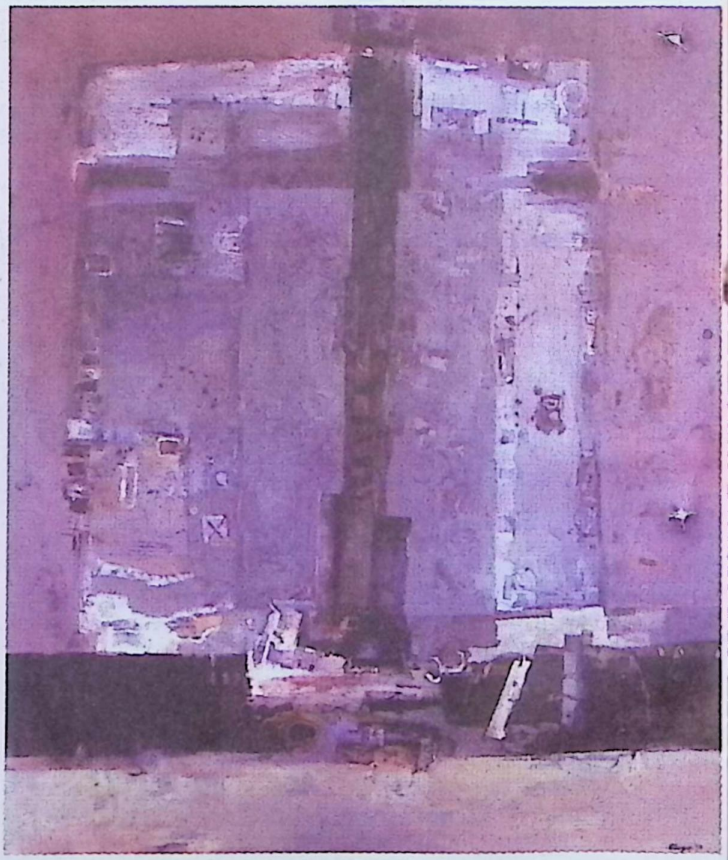
National art exhibition organised by the Department of Fine Arts of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has played a significant role to promote the artists nationally. To participate in the exhibition the artists get busy prior to the exhibition to present something outstanding to achieve the awards. Even a chance to participate at the exhibition is encouraging for many artists. And, of course, it creates the opportunity for art lovers to have an idea of the trends in contemporary art.

Initially, there was no competition section in the national exhibition when it was introduced in 1970s. In those days the academy honoured one senior artist at the national exhibition as of recognition of his contribution to art. Subsequently, the exhibition became so popular that the academy had to introduce a selection committee to select the art works for display at the exhibition. In response to the demand of the artists, a jury had been formed to select the winner of the awards. To give more colour to the arrangement, a few private organisations and persons donated funds to introduce more awards to encourage the artists.

But for the last few years the national art exhibition has been losing its grandeur. Many well-reputed artists are not participating. Even the number of viewers has decreased significantly, despite the infra-structural development of the academy.

For instance, the number of participating artists has decreased at the ongoing 18th National Art Exhibition at the National Art Gallery. When 373 artworks by 247 artists were on display at the last arrangement, this year 222 art works by 198 artists are participating at the exhibition. While the exhibition used to continue for a month, this time it has been organised as a fortnightly exhibition.

Moreover, only in this year the display of contemporary works by the seasoned artists has been excluded, though usually, 10 seasoned artists used to be invited to participate at the exhibition in addition to the competition section.



Fragmented Image-3, Golam Faruque Bebul.

Let alone the common people, even many artists and art critics have not gone to Shilpakala Academy so far to watch the exhibition, though it was inaugurated on May 24. However BSA officials blame the lack of coverage by the mass media for less publicity of the national exhibition.

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