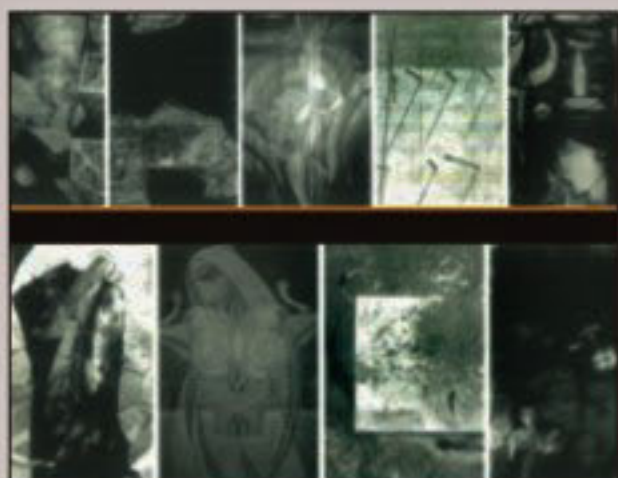


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Group Art Exhibition

Organiser: Gallery Chittrak  
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi  
Inauguration: April 3 at 6pm  
Date: April 3-12  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Syeeduzzaman Sumon  
Title: Rural Life  
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 3-17  
Time: 3pm-9pm (except Sundays)



### Art Exhibition

Organiser: Myth Shop  
Artist: Abdus Shakoor Shah  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 5  
Time: 5pm



### Boats Exhibition

Title: Traditional Boats of Bangladesh  
Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattashali Gallery, Bangladesh National Museum  
Date: March 23-April 19  
Time: 10am-5pm



## Role call

### Bonna Mirza in conversation

A CORRESPONDENT

No image of life is more authentic than the practical state of affairs. There are dreamers, there are escapists. Bonna Mirza seems to defy both these archetypes. She dwells in hard core reality. Not of probabilities, Bonna talks about possibilities and aims at seeing life through the bona fides and not by imagining alternatives. This resolved and renowned actress talks about her life on stage, on screen and in real life.

different. The only possible similarity is that we have to act. However, both are two different worlds.

I can watch myself on TV, although I admit I don't do it that often. In theatre one doesn't get that chance.

Both roles are quite tough, but I find enjoyment in them.

**TDS: How do you find time for both theatre and TV plays?**

**Bonna:** Theatre is done on a monthly basis like a show per month. It's tough to get out time. And drama's shootings are there almost

Banglavision; "Shimanto" on Desh TV, and "Bhabi" on Ekushey TV. The shooting of "Shobuj Gram Neel Dish Antennae" is still on. In this play my character's name is Joynab. The story is about a rural girl who is forced into marriage.

**TDS: What inspires you?**

**Bonna:** Nothing specific. I guess one has to find that inspiration from within oneself.

**TDS: Do you think TV plays and theatre should always be for social change or can it be for pure entertainment?**

**Bonna:** Not necessarily. I don't think there should always be a need for social commitment, because it is really hard to create an artist from that spot.

Art has a life of its own and we cannot manipulate it with forced convictions or commitments. In any case, the final creation should not be affected because it is confined in a commitment.

**TDS: How do you think the scene in TV plays has changed over the years?**

**Bonna:** Everything has changed—society's attitude, outlook. So it is only obvious that the prospect of drama has changed. But it is nothing sudden. A subtle, gradual change has taken place in this sector. Like, before women were portrayed quite differently. Now the women portrayed are much more independent. They are making their own choices. A kind of social acceptance to this has developed as well.

**TDS: Is there anything that you are scared of?**

**Bonna:** Nothing. I would say that I am brave; nothing scares or unnerves me.

**TDS: A memorable day?**

**Bonna:** Life is full of so many moments, so many memories. Anything appeals to one's emotion and curiosity. We just have to enjoy life as it is, at its fullest.

**TDS: Any word that best describes you?**

**Bonna:** Respect. I respect all because I understand its importance. If I have to earn respect then I need to give it as well.



**The Daily Star (TDS): Having been involved in acting for around 18 years, do you find any similarities in acting for TV plays and the stage?**

**Bonna:** Not really. Both are entirely separate. When I am acting in both of them—there are two different moments.

In TV plays, there are chances for correction -- a shot is taken repeatedly until it is satisfactory. But in theatre, there is no second chance. Also the style, the language, the pattern are so

everyday.

**TDS: So do you get any free time?**

**Bonna:** After all that it is difficult, but yes, I do. In my free time, I do nothing special, what everyone does: Listen to music, browse the net, etc.

**TDS: What are you busy with currently?**

**Bonna:** The TV plays running at the moment are "Batasher Ghor" on ATN "Bangla"; "Maa Tui Kemon Achhish" on ATN Banga; "Shopno Bazar" on Channel I, "Megh Bondhu" on

## Janet Jackson opens up about Michael's death

The notoriously private Janet Jackson opened up about her brother's death on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" last Friday, admitting that the family knew he had a problem.

"People think we were in denial but we weren't. We tried intervention several times. He was very much in denial -- he didn't think he had a problem."

When the news first broke that Michael was ill, Jackson said she first heard about it from an assistant while she was home in New York. The last time she saw her brother was about a month before, she said, at a party she had thrown for their parents. "He was thin then, and we knew that he had a problem; we all did," she said.

His death, she told Winfrey, is "hard to believe still to this day. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about it -- that all of us in the family don't think about it -- every single day."

Her brother's passing happened right as Janet Jackson had started production on Tyler Perry's new film, "Why Did I Get Married Too?" and the emotional turmoil she was in comes through in the film, Winfrey said.

"It was very therapeutic," Jackson said of her role.

Tyler Perry, she added, was by her side the entire time, asking her how she wanted to be treated on set, making sure no one had access to images of Jackson crying in character (lest a tabloid run them as evidence of what Jackson was going through at the time), and even changing the ending of the movie for her.

"I changed the ending because at first she was going to speak at the funeral, and the things that she was going to say, it was too eerie," Perry, who also was on the show, told Winfrey. "She didn't



Janet Jackson called her role in Tyler Perry's new film, "Why Did I Get Married Too?" therapeutic.

want to change it, but I did."

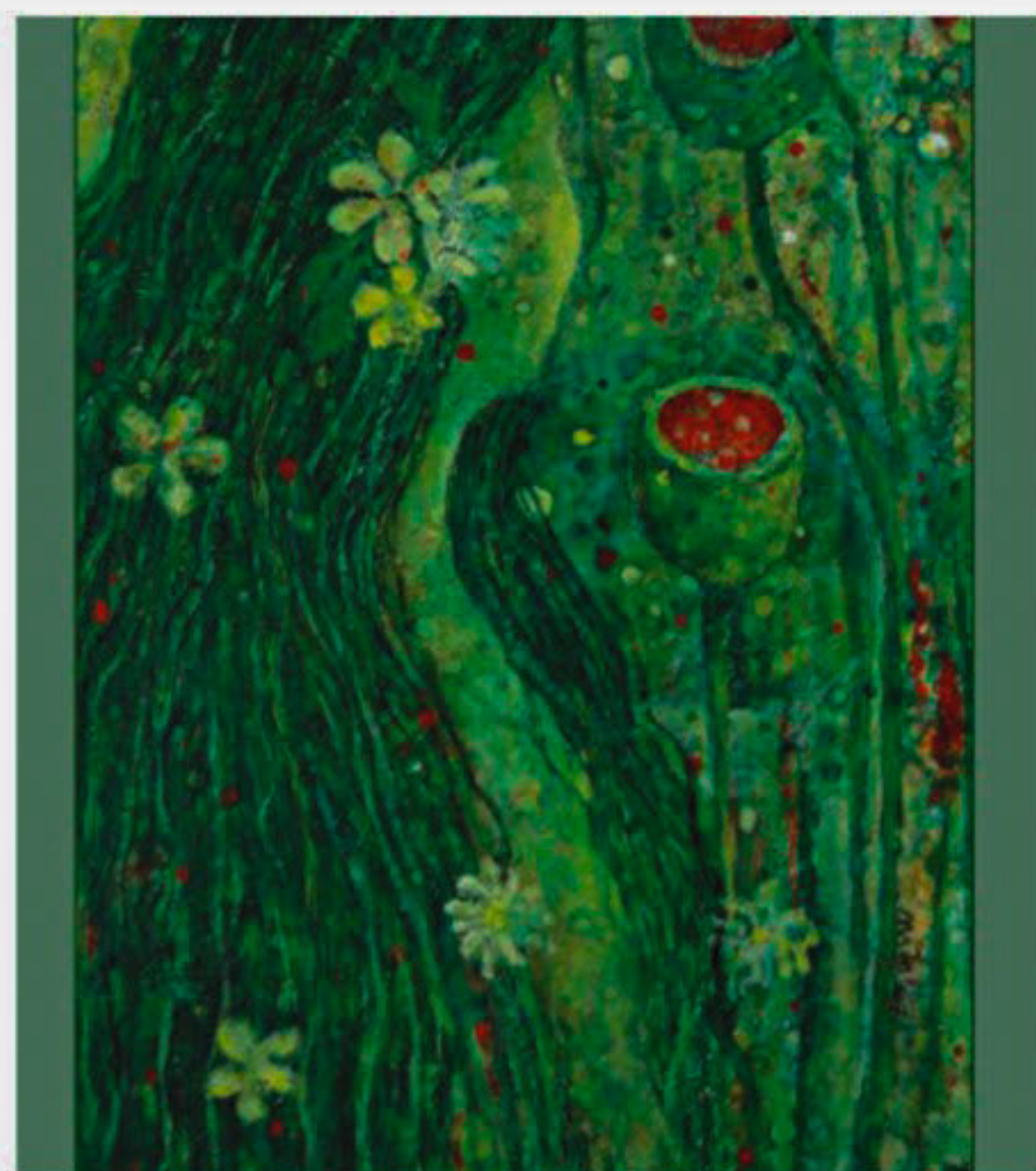
The family was worried, Jackson said, and did several interventions. At one of them, Jackson said she became so overwhelmed, "seeing him and knowing that there was an issue that he was in denial about," she had to leave the room. "A lot of the relationships I've been in, they've had issues with addiction. It's difficult when you see it. [I] recognise it so quickly because I've dealt with it in past relationships."

For Jackson, it's difficult to even look at pictures of Michael as an adult or listen to his music; the only images she can stand to view are those of the pair as children.

"When we were kids, we had so much fun together," she said. "We used to spend every day, all day, together. I have a beautiful picture in my home of he and I when we were just babies. It takes me to that place, even when he was still here, that I missed, that we would talk about. That [picture] I can look at."

Source: CNN

## Poetry on canvas



### Artworks by Asma Sultana Mita

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Artist Asma Sultana Mita lives and works in the UK. Her artworks are closely related to nature, people and various phases of life. Nudes, semi nudes, flora and fauna make up her signature style. Mita's works have a watery appearance and feature a play of shades. Her works come across as visual poetry. She is a figurative painter and her works are in mixed media.

The exhibition also includes

some drawings by the artist. The drawings are done using pen and ink on paper. Her figures represent Bengali women; the tone is set by romanticism. The subjects often seem restless. Scribbles and sharp lines have made the works distinct. The feminine forms, in all their glory, illuminate the drawings.

The artist's sketches are powerful -- displaying profound tranquillity and lucidity. This trait gives her works a mature and contemplative approach. The pen sketches are

particularly animated. Her close study of people allows her to get to the core of her themes. She seeks to explore human emotions and inner visions. Technically, sometimes the works have an academic approach but her continuous approach helps her to overcome it. The mingling of light and shade creates a silence and a sense of balance in her works. Her vivid sombre colours can be easily interpreted by our soul and mind.

At her current exhibition, Mita has included a number of paintings

featuring faces -- each with a unique look. The surface seems smooth and the background is impressive because of the opulence of colours, rich textures and tones. Some faces seem prehistoric -- familiar yet unfamiliar. The faces are not identical and each face expresses a unique explanation of the feminine psyche and look. The visages are the most significant part of the human body and can mirror the mind vividly.

A solo exhibition featuring Mita's works is now on in London.

## Song and Dance: Tagore and Raas Lila

KAVITA, New Delhi

"I regard the poet as a sentinel warning us against the approaching enemies called bigotry, lethargy, intolerance"

-- Mahatma

Gandhi on Tagore, "The Great Sentinel", Young India, October 13, 1921.

"The Great Sentinel," a programme of songs, recitation and readings representing the role of Rabindranath Tagore in the Indian national freedom movement, was the launching pad for a three-day fest titled 'Panorama of Bengal's Art Heritage.'

The programme traced the bard's first steps in the freedom movement till his death in 1941. The story began in 1875 when the 14-year-old Tagore recited his first patriotic poem, "Hindu Melar Upohar" (Hindu Mela's Gift), at the ninth session of the Hindu Mela, a socio-cultural association, was established in the 1860s with the aim of awakening Bengali nationalism. The annual gathering of the Mela, accompanied by exhibitions, set off ripples of patriotism in poetry, music, drama as well as all branches of Bangla literature and folklore.

The event was presented



Artistes of Kolkata Mayur Lalit Dance Academy stage "Raas Lila."

by the New Delhi-based

Rabigeetika on April 2. The artistes held the audience in their grip, particularly with several solos and the rendition of "Vande Mataram," a poem by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, first sung in a political context by Tagore at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress. Tagore's composition of the Indian National Anthem "Jana Gana Mana" too greatly moved the

audience.

The 'Great Sentinel' has been scripted by the late Professor R.K Dasgupta, the first professor of Tagore Studies at Delhi University. The work was directed by Sudhir Chanda, the founder and teacher of Rabigeetika, an institution dedicated to teaching Rabindra Sangeet. Explaining the finer points of "The Great Sentinel," Chanda says, "The compilation of

songs, recitation and readings were presented in the poet's own words with appropriate commentary." It helped the non-Bengalis in the audience, of course, that the narration was in English.

Oddissi dance-drama "Raas Lila" brought up the second half of the evening. Conceptualised and choreographed by talented Odissi dancer Debamitra Sengupta, the colourful programme was

a visual delight. The groundbreaking effort by Debamitra, combined Odissi dance with 'Padabali Kirtan.' Says Debamitra, the founder director of Kolkata Mayur Lalit Dance Academy, which produced the programme, "The dance drama was unusual with its combination of the instruments khol and pakhawaj. It was a challenging production, as it was a fusion of Odissi dance with kirtan, a Bengali art form."

"Raas Lila" is set in Vrindavan where Lord Krishna (performed by Debamitra) is shown dancing with Radha and the Gopis on the banks of river Jamuna on the full moon night of autumn.

With her rich credentials, it is no wonder that Debamitra and her troupe stole the show. She is a senior disciple of late Padma Vibhushan Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra, dancer, guru and proponent of Odissi dance who is credited for the revival of this classical dance form in the 20th century.

Later Debamitra further honed her dance skills under the tutelage of late Padma Shri Sanjukta Panigrahi and Sutapa Talukdar.

## "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" now playing at Star Cineplex

Optimus Prime and the Autobots decided to stop at Dhaka for a week but unbeknown to them Decepticon's decided to do the same. Both sides bumped into each other and the battle has begun at Star Cineplex.

Star Cineplex brought the Michael Bay blockbuster "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" to Dhaka. From April 2, Cineplex is screening the movie at its Hall 1 and Hall 2, says a press release. The shows will continue till April 8.

The plot: Decepticon forces return to Earth on a mission to take Sam Witwicky ( Shia LaBeouf) prisoner, after the young hero learns the truth about the ancient origins of the Transformers. Joining the mission to protect humankind is Optimus Prime, who forms an alliance with international armies for a second epic battle.

