

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Group Art Exhibition

Title: Rooted Creativity-3
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: June 15-26
Time: 12pm-8pm



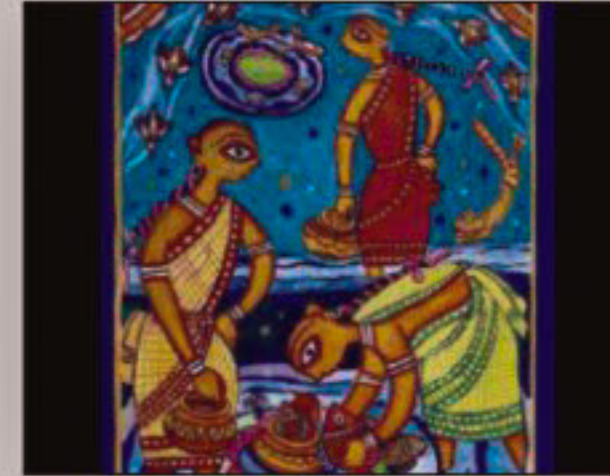
Founding Anniversary

Benuka Institute of Fine Arts
Venue: National Theatre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 24-25
Time: 5:30 pm



Art Exhibition

Painter: Nikhil Chandra Das
Title: The story of lost painting
Venue: Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 12-26
Time: 11 pm-7 pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Mohammad Fakruzzaman
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi
Date: June 19-27
Time: 10am-8pm



Immersed in colour and texture

Fakruzzaman's solo exhibition at Gallery Chittrak

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Bangladeshi painter-printmaker Mohammad Fakruzzaman currently lives in London. The artist regularly visits Dhaka and is well informed about the progress of and changing trends in the local art scene.

Fakruzzaman's latest solo exhibition is now on at Gallery Chittrak in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The exhibition features the artist's oil paintings and

collagraph prints.

Fakruzzaman's works highlight simple compositions; forms are reposed. He often uses flat forms that are given volume and dimension by textured areas created around them. Black, red and grey are the most noticeable colours in his works.

Fakruzzaman has confined himself to using more or less one hue on each canvas. Predominantly black,

the works at times see flashes of yellow, grey and red to articulate the painter's visions. The artist chooses black, as he says the shade has a quality that creates an illusion of an abstract appearance. Another striking aspect of Fakruzzaman's works is that the compositions appear to follow the shape of the canvas. The artist consciously eliminates lines and objects. His simply wants to create colour-based full-fledged



composition patterns. Use of space is a vital feature of his works. He meticulously creates space that denotes solitude and serenity. Seeking to represent a spiritual experience, Fakruzzaman invokes the power of colour in his works.

Fakruzzaman is often inspired by the silence in nature and spirituality. His works look neat and serene as the canvas typically displays colours and their various layers. Colours and textures create a distinct language in his works.

Fakruzzaman excels in printmaking as well, particularly collagraph prints. This style of printmaking is similar to etching, however no acid is used in collagraph to create texture. Etching is more mechanical and technique based. But collagraph is more artistic and creative.

The exhibition at Gallery Chittrak will continue till June 27.



Artworks by Fakruzzaman.

It's a wonderful afterlife for Michael Jackson

On March 5, 2009, when Michael Jackson announced that he would perform a run of 50 concerts at London's O2 Arena in a comeback tour called "This Is It," the British media largely greeted the news with derision.

The Guardian wrote that a quickly erected stage at the press conference "served only to heighten Jackson's physical weirdness -- the sunken cheeks, the upturned nose, the overpronounced chin cleft." The Daily Telegraph described his behaviour as "bizarre," and so many

lic divestitures. Many saw the concerts as little more than a desperate, money-raising gambit.

Despite his ability to sell out 50 arena dates, the King of Pop was seen, even by some of his supporters, as little more than a hallowed oldies act, a performer whose heyday, albeit phenomenal, was more than two decades in the past. To his detractors, though, Jackson was even less than that: either a laughingstock -- "Wacko Jacko" -- or worse: a freak, a deviant, a pariah.

"Thriller" CDs.

In July, Jackson regained his spot at the top of the Billboard sales charts, moving 422,000 units in the week after his death alone -- to date, the Jackson catalogue has sold 9 million copies in the year since he passed, according to Nielsen SoundScan. Spontaneously, kids from LA to Beijing were seen sporting bootleg "Thriller" T-shirts and blaring "Billie Jean" as if it were 1983 and Reagan was in the White House.

In the fall, the film of Jackson's rehearsals for the mocked "This Is It tour" became the highest-grossing concert movie of all time, earning \$72 million at the North American box office, according to BoxOfficeMojo.com. (The soundtrack to "This Is It," Sony Music's only release of new Jackson material since his death, has sold 1.6 million copies.)

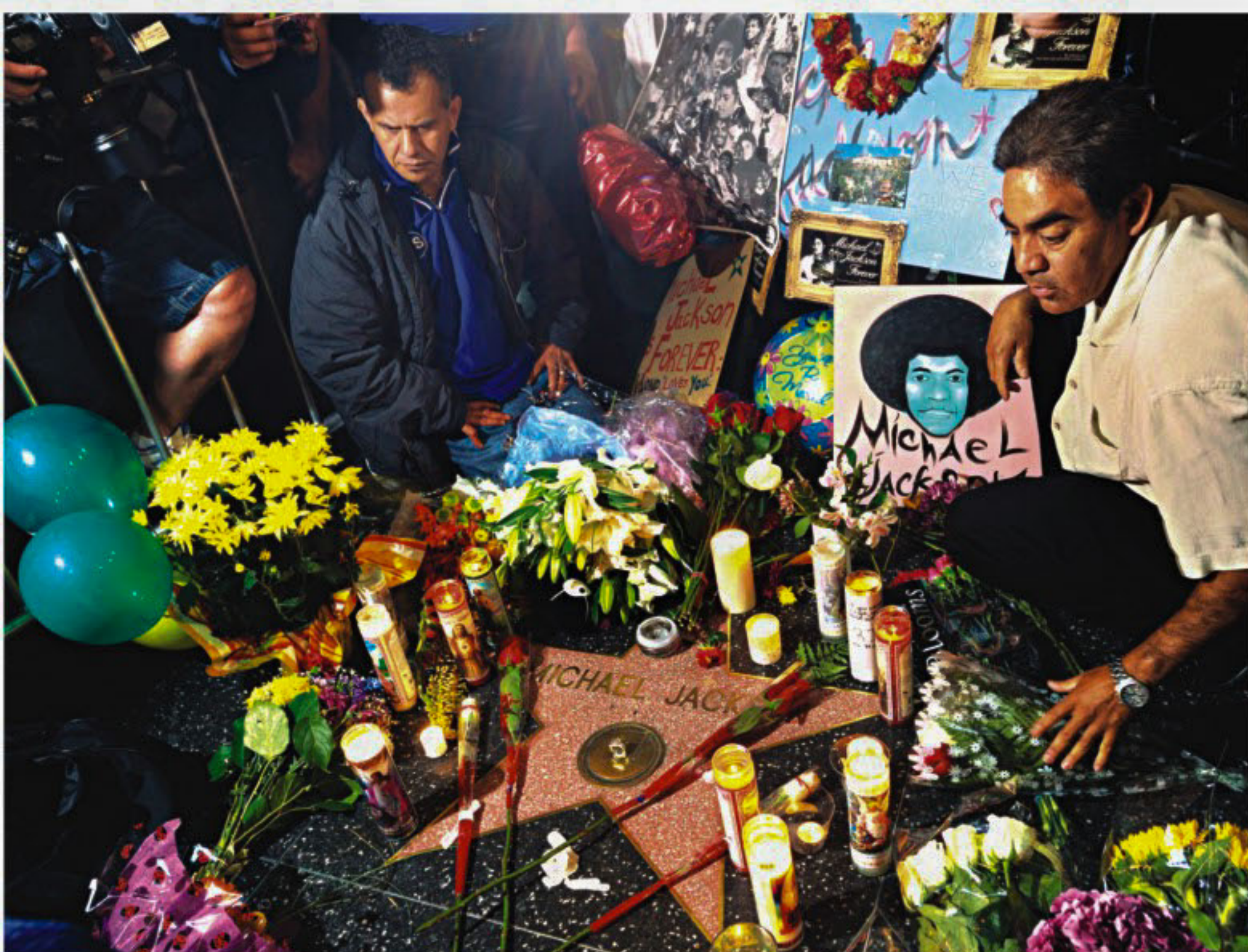
In March, the Jackson estate, led by co-executors John Branca and John McClain, signed a 10-album, \$250 million deal with Sony that will include the release of a collection of previously unreleased tracks, set for November, as well as repackages of Jackson's 1979 solo breakthrough, "Off the Wall," and his 1987 album, "Bad." One month later, Cirque du Soleil, which created the Beatles' show "Love" to great acclaim, announced it would produce both a touring and permanent show based on Jackson's music.

When both fans and experts discuss the troubled last decade of Jackson's life, it's now in softer terms, with the artist portrayed less as an agent of his own demise than as a victim of a colluding set of circumstances -- abusive family, circumspect entourage, incomprehensible pressures of fame -- that would have felled anyone, no less a fragile man-child like Jackson.

Not wanting to speak ill of the dead is a human and rational desire -- once someone is gone, he or she is unable to defend him or herself. But the changed tone of the conversation surrounding Jackson has done more than just remedy some of the damage inflicted by his years of weird-to-aberrant behaviour; it has also created a series of enormous business opportunities for his estate, opportunities that in all likelihood wouldn't have emerged had Jackson lived.

It seems death has breathed a new lease of life into Michael Jackson's legacy.

Source: The New York Times



Following his death on June 25, 2009, a popular reclaiming of Jackson as a beloved, once-in-a-lifetime musical genius has taken hold.

rumours circulated about his ill health that the tour's promoter, AEG, was forced to issue a statement that Jackson had undergone a battery of tests to prove he was in condition to play the dates.

Since 2005, Jackson had spent much of his time in seclusion -- at his Neverland Ranch in Santa Barbara, California; in Bahrain; in Ireland; in Las Vegas -- emerging only, it seemed, to fend off financial ruin, either through ill-fated recording projects or embarrassing pub-

Flash-forward 15 months, and Jackson's image in the public consciousness has undergone a dramatic revision. In the days, weeks and months following his death on June 25, 2009, from drug-related cardiac arrest, a popular reclaiming of Jackson as a beloved, once-in-a-lifetime musical genius took hold. While cable-news pundits endlessly pored over the tawdry circumstances of his demise, millions of fans new and old simply shrugged their shoulders and happily popped in their

Seminar on Augusto Boal

A daylong seminar on Brazilian theatre activist, director and writer Augusto Boal was held at the Seminar Room of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on June 19, according to a press release.

Organised by Augusto Boal Centre, a wing of the theatre troupe Bottola, the programme was divided into two sessions. Theatre personalities as well as theatre activists and enthusiasts attended at the programme.

The first session was held in the afternoon. Dr. Saleque Khan, president of Bottola, presented the keynote paper, titled "Adommyo Nayak" (indomitable hero) at the first session. Noted theatre personality Mamunur Rashid presided

over the session, while Shamsul Alam Bakul and Aminur Rahman Mukul discussed on the topic.

The second session featured presentation of a keynote paper by Md. Ahsan Khan. Dr. Afsar Ahmed of Jahangirnagar University presided over the session. Asif Munir and Saidur Rahman Lipon were the discussants at the second session.

Both sessions of the seminar highlighted Boal's views and thoughts on theatre and the pragmatic aspects of his philosophy in the Bangladeshi context.

Augusto Boal was the founder of Theatre of the Oppressed, a theatrical form used in radical popular educational movements. Boal passed away last year.



Mamunur Rashid (centre) presides over the first session.

TV Watch

New drama serial "Madhobi Villa" on ATN Bangla

ATN Bangla will air the first episode of the drama serial "Madhobi Villa" tonight at 8 pm. Directed by Proshun Biswas, the serial is an adaptation of a novel by Dr Nihar Ranjan Gupta.

The serial revolves around two friends -- Mrigango and Mohitosh. Mrigango is a visionary who dreams of employing thousands at his factory one day. With his tireless efforts he establishes his factory and expands its operations. But before his dream could be fully realised Mrigango dies after a heart attack. With his



A scene from the serial.

sudden death, Mohitosh takes charge, taking a vow to fulfil his friend's unfinished dream.

The cast includes Ramendu Majumdar, Jyotsna Bishwas, Shoeb Hillol, Chitralakha Guho, Challenger, Aruna Bishwas and others.

John Lennon's "A Day in the Life" lyrics sell for \$1.2 million

John Lennon's handwritten lyrics to Beatles song "A Day in the Life" have sold for \$1.2m (£810,000) at auction, well above the price expected.

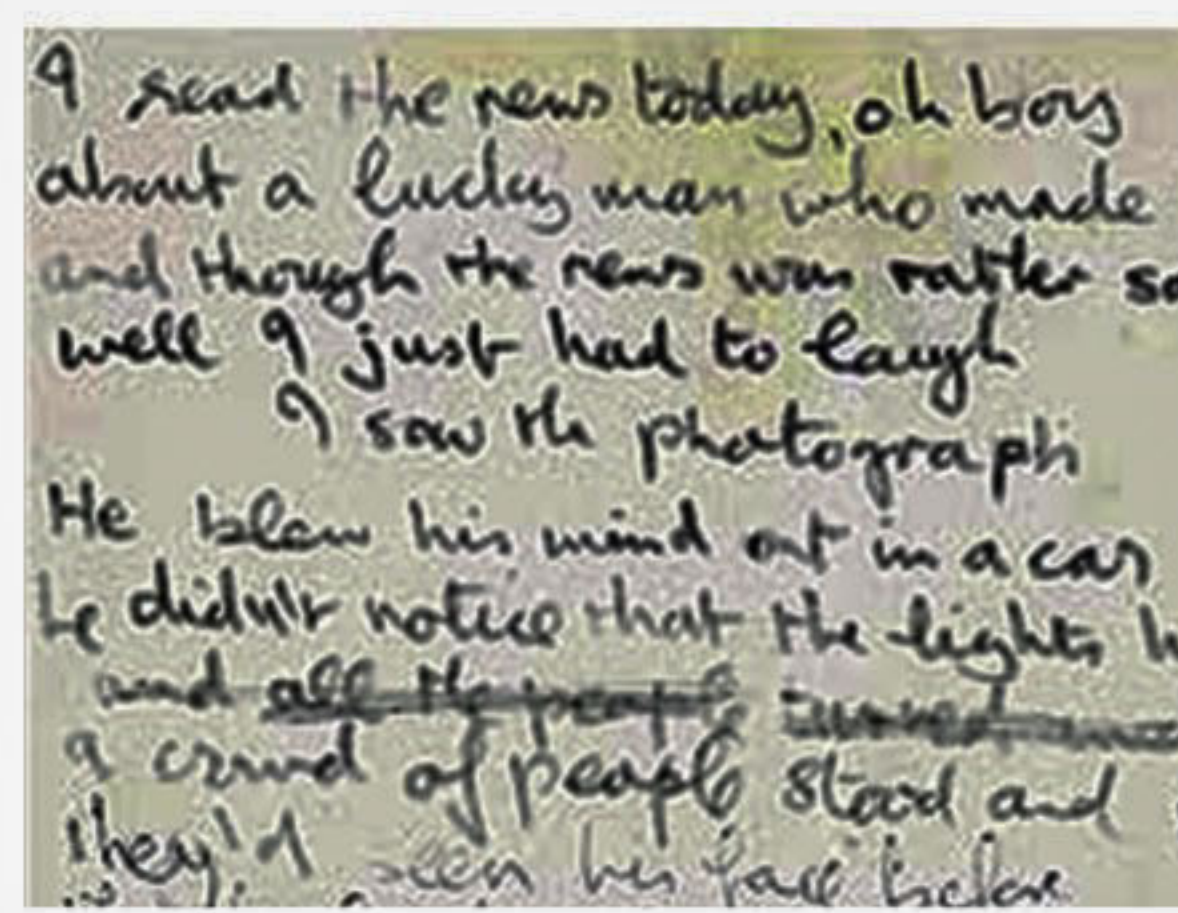
The double-sided sheet of paper with notes written in felt marker and blue ink was sold at Sotheby's in New York.

The lyric sheet also contains some corrections and other notes penned in red ink.

The song - co-written with Paul McCartney - is the final track on the band's 1967 Sgt Pepper album.

The buyer was an anonymous American telephone bidder. The lyric sheet had previously belonged to Mal Evans, the Beatles' road manager.

According to the auction house, the previous record for a sale of Beatles



One side of the lyric sheet shows Lennon's amendments.

lyrics was "All You Need Is Love", which fetched \$1m (£655,450) in 2005.

Rolling Stone magazine listed "A Day in the Life" at number 26 in its compilation of the greatest 500 songs of all time. The album went on to win four Grammy awards.

The BBC banned airplay of the track in 1967 because of the lyric "I'd

Like To Turn You On", which was interpreted as a reference to drug use. This also led to several Asian countries to release Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band minus the song. The lyric was apparently a later addition by Lennon.

Source: BBC