

WHAT'S ON

ARTIST OF THE CENTURY

Exhibition of MF Hussain's works

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Gallery Basilio is hosting a two-week long exhibition of prints, titled "Artist of the Century", featuring iconic artist MF Hussain at New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka. The exhibition features some of the artist's significant series of works such as "Mahabharat", "Madhuri", "Gaja Gamini", "Ganga Jamuna", "Horse", "Theroma" and "Ganpati".

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith inaugurated the exhibition on January 7. Mohammad Aziz Khan, chairman of Summit Group, and veteran painter Monirul Islam were present as special guests. Ruhul Amin Majumdar, advisor, Gallery Basilio, presided over the programme. Maksudul Hasan, CEO and curator of the exhibition, delivered the welcome speech. Poet Hayat Saif read out an essay on MF Hussain.

Hussain mingled western modernity with Indian folk style -- focusing on vibrant colours, bold curves, dynamic movements (human figures and animals) and figurative compositions. The current exhibition at Basilio highlights these elements eloquently.

The painter had a great fascination for portraying myths, political circumstances and historic events. This multifaceted genius worked in almost all media -- like oil, acrylic, gouache, watercolours, pastel, etching, woodcut, lithograph, serigraph, linocut, pen and pencil. At the exhibition, his serigraph and lithograph prints demonstrate the distinct style developed by the artist over his extended career. The painter was secular and über-liberal. Fragmentation is a recurring trait in his works. The maestro was deeply interested in cubism as well. Cubism gained popularity in India



Theroma



Horse

through his adroit hands. Some of his prints also reflect the artist's personal assessment of religious beliefs.

One of his prints shows a horse in motion. Bright colours and fragmented forms are noticeable; red, blue and yellow are dominating hues in the print.

Another of his prints, "Gaja Gamini", shows a number of women engrossed in dancing, singing and adorning themselves. The print also shows a woman sitting on a pile of books and a child busy at play. Mind boggling colours and movements are also noticeable here.

"Theroma", a series, shows distinct features of different religions -- Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism and Jainism. "Theroma" is the only non-figurative work in the whole exhibition, and has been done following the Islamic calligraphy tradition.

The exhibition will continue till January 21.

Gaja Gamini