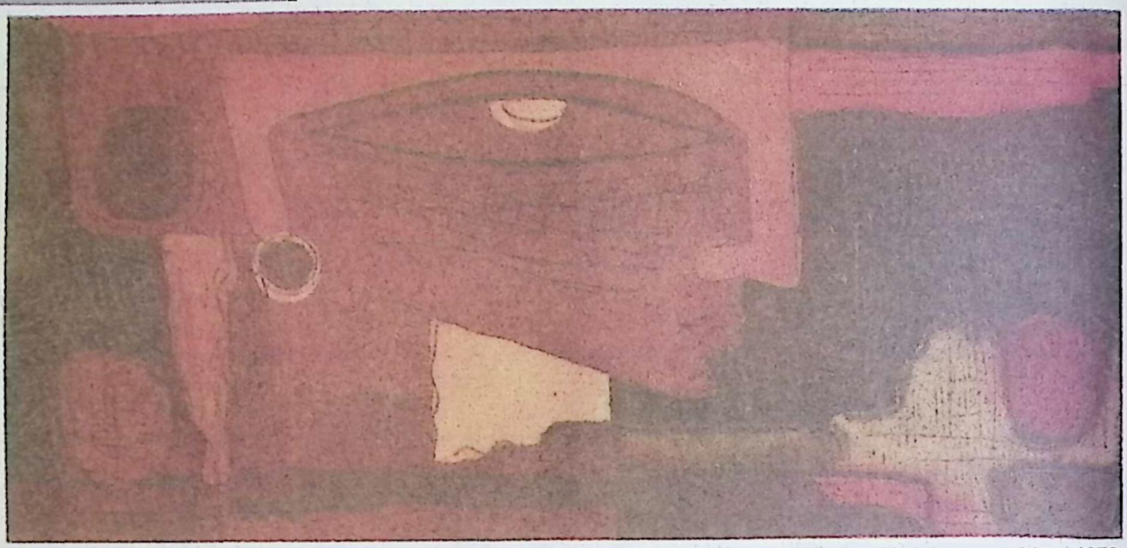


Nature with woman, etching, 1979.

Simplicity Plus

FAYZA HAQ

Biren Shome, who has been winning art-lover's hearts since the early 70s, has now come up with a breathless collection at Dhaka Art Centre till July 24.

As a graduate of the Department of Fine Arts, DU, he studied under the eagle eye of Rafiqun Nabi and Mahmudul Haque. During the Language Movement of 1952, the artist, then a teenager was in Jamalpur. Like many of his contemporaries, he too was affected by the political rumblings around him. He was weary of misrule and dictatorship. Touching the 'Six Point Demand' he made sketches, cartoons –in righteous indignation. During the Liberation War, the Pakistan Army marched on, he and his colleagues, like Utpal Kanti Dhar and Masum Ansari, crossed the Bhramaputra, to escape the deadly bush-firing from planes overhead.

Like most Dhaka artists, he is a great pleasure to be with—soft-spoken and full of humour. As he works at the National Herbarium during the day, his work has been done mostly at night and on holidays. He has used oil, water-colour and pen and ink. He has enlarged the detail of flowers, which he studied as an illustrator. Thus his creative work has depth of vision. His 'Bhasha Andalen Thikey Mukti Jodha' at Shilpangan has soldiers brandishing their rifles, and portrays women protesting injustice and oppression.

Biren's solo exhibition of 2013, contains mostly prints, some of which are coloured. His 'Woman with their flower', an etching done in 1979, has bars of vermilion and pink flower wreathes at her two sides. Her aquiline nose and curled lips along with her sloe eyes remind one of the paintings by the Moghuls and the caves of Elora and Ajanta. There is the disk of the full moon in the dark indigo sky.

"Three Faces" of 1979 has the faces of a man and two women. They are done in cubes in earthy



Lalon, etching, 1979.

colours—burnt sienna and beige. Above is the red and green flag of Bangladesh—only it is ovular, with many scratch marks.

"Peace"(1979), another etching contains a female's face and a resting bird --with circles of