

WHAT'S ON
Print Exhibition
 Artist: Biren Shome
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
 Date: June 28-July 24
 Time: 3-8pm



Painting Exhibition
 Title: Passion for Blue
 Artist: Gopal Chandra Saha
 Venue: Institute of Asian Creatives, Gulshan-2
 Date: July 5-19
 Time: 12-8pm



Bulbul Ahmed's 3rd Death Anniversary
 Venue: Seminar Room, National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala academy
 Date: July 17, Time: 12pm



Charity Art Exhibition
 Title: Fida'r Jonno
 Venue: Zainul Gallery-2
 Date: July 14-30
 Time: 10am-8pm



Group Exhibition
 Marking Ten-Year Journey of Galleri Kaya
 Title: Glimpses
 Venue: H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
 Date: June 21-July 20



NEW VISIONS FROM ARTISTS

20th National Exhibition at Shilpakala Academy held

FAYZA HAQ

The 20th National Exhibition at the Shilpakala Academy went like a wink -- for those concentrating on other grand displays of visual art. Tejosh Haldar (Josh) had "Freedom of Press" in the form of an angel, with long garb and a floating pair of wings. This was a sculpture and decidedly thought-provoking.

Tasadduk Hossain Dulu's "The Surface" had the image of electric wires, with ragged ribbons and remnant of buntings --seen against a brick wall. The wall was seen as rectangles of whites and yellow-ochre.

Tania Sultana Bristy's "Intimate open air" was an idyllic creation in black and white. Birds and bird's nests created a symphony of eyes and twirling tops.

Full of joie de vivre was "Self Conversation" in which one saw two karate choppers pitted against each other. One was dressed in coloured tights and tops--gold and pink going into the getup, while the other had creations of black dots and gray design. This was by Tanjil Fatema Tushi.

Farzana Rahman Bobby's "Re-plantation", consisted of seven prints in black and white. Idyllic and romantic, the combination of roots, branches, leaves, and twigs created a unique harmony of their own.

Firoz Mahmud's "Memorial Lamentation" treated the subject of Nabab Sirajuddin on his steed, turned out like royalty in a rich coat and turban. The work was more modern and picturesque than any of his previous creations. A mix of ruby red, cobalt blue, turquoise, jade green and gray went into the composition.

Abul Hussain Dhali in his "Grazing ground"



Artworks by Al-Akhir Sarkar, Bitap Shavan Bachhar and Mainuddin.

created a sheep with many more grazing around it. This was a print in black and white. Dhali has done a lot of fine studies of animal life-- specially that of goats. One can find many at the Dhaka Art Centre, in Dhanmondi.

Anisuzzaman, with his "Kaleidoscopic Complexity" brought in metal bars that one uses in city building construction, the poles. It appears that despite his PhD from the Far East, his subjects remain more or less the same.

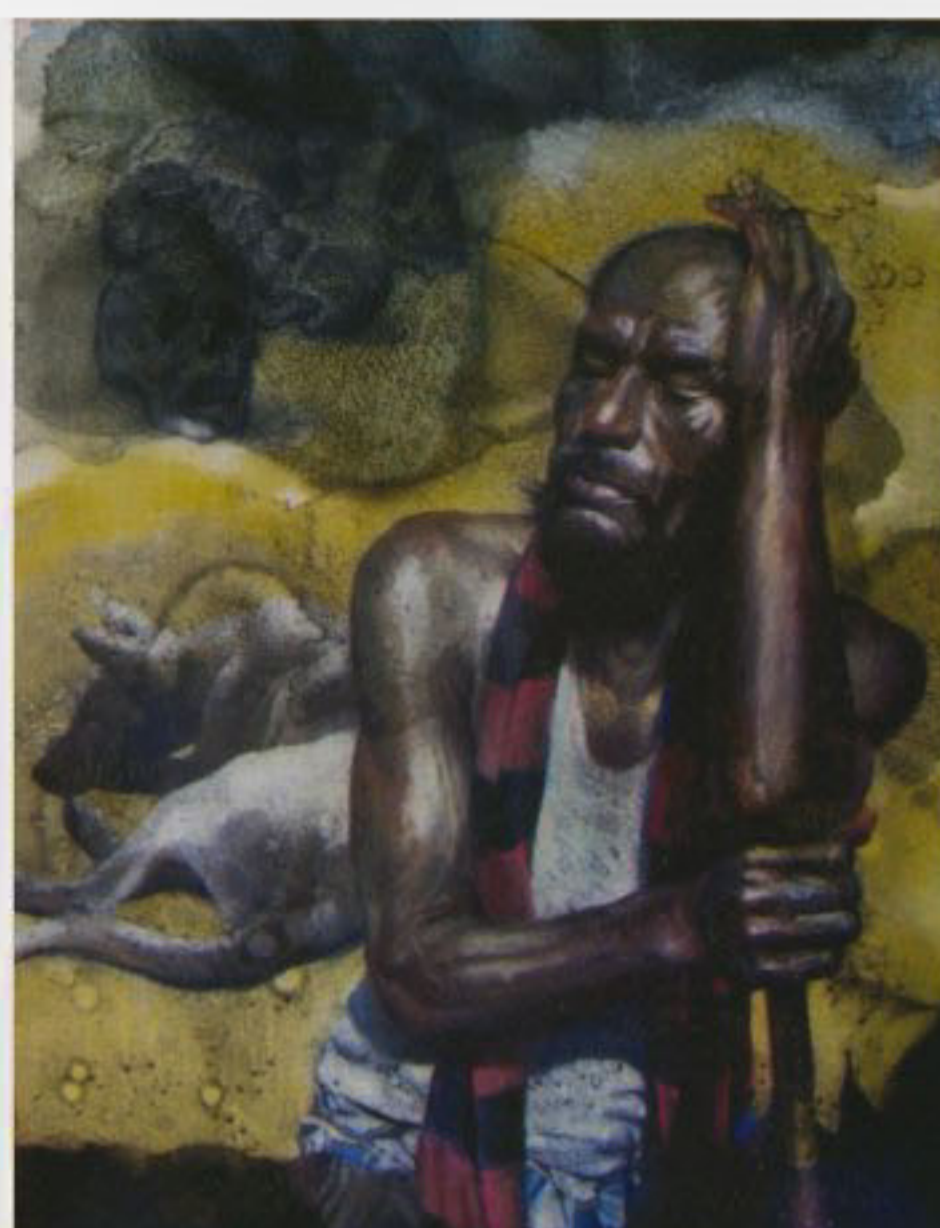
Atia Islam Anne "Throw Back-1" show many huddled veiled women, in shalwar, kameez and



burqa with false religiosity. Her contempt for hypocrisy is obvious in the raw colours. The shocking purple, green and magenta go into making a creation to remember.

Laila Sharmeen has used the theme of "Data, Damyata, Dayatvam," and "Shanti, Shanti, Shanti" many times over the years. Her creation has women and banana plants, boats and birds. She has used colours at will.

"Dream of Civilization" by Sohel Rana Pranon has resting white cows, farmers, with bare essentials and "Gamcha". Angels, bearing bows and arrows are



floating in the sky. The ground in front is a peaceful burnt umber.

Sheikh Zohur "The Reincarnation of Old Dhaka" has a portrayal of the crammed flats and buildings, along with the balconies and balustrades on two black pieces--as if they had been sewn together.

The artists who participated in the 29th National Art Exhibition at Shilpakala Academy were more creative and imaginative than ever before. Their steps were bold and their vision different from what one has seen earlier.

NEWS bytes

Depp on board for "Alice In Wonderland" sequel

Despite garnering fairly lukewarm reviews across the board, "Alice In Wonderland" was hugely lucrative for Disney, so much so that a sequel always seemed inevitable. The original's \$1 billion worldwide take was at least partly down the presence of star name Johnny Depp, and so Disney will be thrilled to have entered final negotiations with the A-lister over a potential return.

Discussions have reached an advanced stage, with Depp looking increasingly likely to reprise his role as The Mad Hatter.

With James Bobin replacing Tim Burton in the director's chair, the sequel has yet to receive an official release date, but expect that to change as soon as Depp is officially announced.

Source: Totalfilm

Entries called for Aminul Islam Young Artist's Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Artworks are being sought from young artists of the country for the Aminul Islam Young Artist's Award. In memory of late artist Aminul Islam, the award has been jointly introduced by the artist's family and Bengal Foundation. The prize money for the winner of the contest is Taka 1 lakh.

Bengal Foundation has called for entries from artists in the 22-40 years age group for the contest. The selection of artists and the exhibition will be arranged by Bengal Foundation.

The organiser has requested interested artists to submit the images of their latest artworks for the competition in CD/DVD format from September 20 to 25 during office hours at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi.

Entries can be submitted online at award@bengalfoundation.org or gallerly@bengalfoundation.org.

Earlier, Aminul Islam's widow Rubi Islam signed an agreement with Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director general of Bengal Foundation, to enable the foundation to organise the competition and exhibition biannually.

New generation of Arab singers

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

Arab music has a long tradition of Oud -- a local variety of lute -- and soulful longing. It is the foundation of classical Arab music. Umm Kulthum of Egypt was phenomenally popular throughout the Arab world. Many regard Al-Atfal (The Ruins) as her best song. She died in 1975.

Nouhad Wadi Haddad a Lebanese female singer popularly known as Fairuz or Turquoise closely followed her in eminence. While classical songs were Umm Kulthum's forte Fairuz excelled in modern Arabic songs also projecting the Lebanese heritage. Her all time popular song A'tini al-Nay is cherished by every Arab.

They are followed by new bunch of talented and popular young singers, both male and female. They are Amr Diab, Nancy Ajram, Tamer Hosny, Mohammed Hamaki, Elissar Zakaria Khouri, Sherine Ahmed Abdul Wahab, Kadim Al Sahir, Cairokee a band group and Wael Kfoury.

Among the lot, Amr Abdel Basset Abdel Azeez Diab (Amr Diab) of Egypt is a versatile performer; Diab is both a singer and composer. He has received many awards as the best-selling Arab recording artist. Music connoisseurs commend Diab for blending a Mediterranean Music style combining Arab sound and diction with Western cadence and instruments.

Amr Diab's 1996 album "Nour El Ain" (Light of the Eye-Sight) became a sensation in the music world. "Habibi" from the album drew music lovers like infatuation worldwide in countries like Pakistan, India (performed by Nachiketa in Bengali with lyrics of his own), Afghanistan, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. The album sold 3 million copies! In 1998, he



Nancy Ajram

received the World Music Award from the Prince of Monaco. Diab became a living legend. His album "Amarain" (Two Moons) of 1999 is rated as his best. Amarain featured Diab in a duet "Qalbi" with Algeria's "Didi" famed Khaled based in France.

Nancy Nabil Ajram (Nancy Ajram) of Lebanon is an immensely popular pop star in Arab music. Nancy came into the limelight in 2003 with the big success of her lead single "Akhsmak Ah". With her fourth album "Ah w Noss" (Yes, and a half!) she became the pop icon of Arab world. Coca Cola made Nancy their official celebrity spokesperson. The commercial was a hit -- "Oul Tany Kida?" (Say that

again?). The success continued and her fifth album "Ya Tabtab Wa Dalla" is believed to be her best. Ajram's crowning moment came when her best-selling album "Betfakkar Fi Eih" won the first World Music Award, as the best-selling Middle Eastern Artist.

Tamer Hosny Abbas Farghaly (Tamer Hosny) of Egypt is idolized as the Star of Generation. He is a highly endowed talent - singer, actor, composer, director and songwriter. In 2004 his second album "Hob" (Love) a romantic one featured a catchy solo "Arrab Habibi". Its success earned him the nickname "King of Generation". The solo song kept on running in music channels. The 8th album "Elly Gai Ahla" (2011) found great popularity and he found his bride in his fellow Moroccan singer Bassma Boussil.

Mohammed Ibrahim Mohammed El-Hamaki (Mohammed Hamaki) of Egypt is known as the Master of Pop Music. He is in his thirties. His virtuosity extends to musical instruments; he can play both guitar and piano. He shot into fame with his album "Kheles El Kalam" (All The Words Have Finished!). The song "Wahda Wahda" (One by One) became very popular.

Elissar Zakaria Khouri (Elissa) is a Lebanese pop singer. Elissa became a phenomenon with her W'akherta Ma'ak. It included a popular duet "Betghib Betrouh". The video clip of her equally successful album "Ayshalak" was done in France by French Director Fabrice Begotti.

The popularity of this new generation of singers shows that Arab world has great love for music and has a wealth of talents to keep it alive. The legacy of Umm Kulthum and Fairuz continues.

Byomkesh Bakshi enters the Hindi belt



Dibakar is excited by the opportunity to recreate the Calcutta of 1930s and 1940s as shown in the Byomkesh stories.

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The 31 stories featuring detective Byomkesh Bakshi in the 31 stories of author Saradindu Bandopadhyay have for decades been the staple reading diet of Bengali households, cutting across age-groups. Now, the sleuth is set to reach out to the Hindi-speaking audience on the silver screen when Bollywood director Dibakar Banerjee, who has won critical acclaim with films like "Khosla Ka Ghosla", "Oye Lucky Lucky Oye" and "Shanghai", begins shooting the stories under the famous Yash Raj Films banner.

"There have been numerous interpretations of Byomkesh in Bengali films but never in a Hindi film. Being a Hindi filmmaker, I'm excited to introduce Byomkesh to the Hindi audience," says Dibakar.

He says Yash Raj Films has bought the rights of all the 31 stories of Byomkesh in all languages except Bangla.

Dibakar liked the TV series based on Byomkesh made "memorable" by well-known actor Rajit Kapur in title role but

what the director says he aims at doing on the big screen is to "re-imagine" the stories of the sleuth.

Dibakar says he is also excited by the chance to recreate the Calcutta of 1930s and 1940s shown in Byomkesh stories by Saradindu Bandopadhyay. "In many ways, Saradindu did what Arthur Conan Doyle did for Victorian London", says the director.

What attracted Dibakar to Byomkesh stories? "There is a deadly realism to Byomkesh which fascinates me", the director replies.

Dibakar says he read his first Byomkesh novel when he was 14- years-old and "I was completely taken in by the atmosphere created by writer Saradindu Banerjee."

Maestro director Satyajit Ray, so memorable with his own creation of a sleuth in Feluda (Pradosh Kumar Mitter as portrayed by Soumitra Chatterjee on the big screen in Ray's "Sonar Kella" and "Joy Baba Felunath"), did a detective film based on Byomkesh in "Chiriakhana" with legend Uttam Kumar setting the benchmark in the role of the quintessentially Bengali detective. Dibakar has chosen to start the



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