

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



Painting Exhibition
 Title: Book is Light
 Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
 Venue: Café Gallery, R-72, H-3A, Gulshan-2
 Date: June 1-July 24



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




PHOTO: STAR LIFESTYLE ARCHIVE



Creativity unbound

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

One can hardly be unaware of the hustle and bustle in the city and the racing pulse of the shopping arcades. Ramadan has just begun. Restaurants across the city offer mouth watering iftar of jilebee, fuluree, samosa, dahibora, halim and other culinary delights. In keeping with tradition, the old town has over a hundred varieties of iftar to please the palate.

One of delights of of Eid shopping is undoubtedly the Eid outfit—panjabees, futua, saris, shalwar-kameez.

In a few days it will be impossible to miss the signboards, banners, neon signs proclaiming that theirs is THE place to shop: Brand new stock! Premium collections! No mistaking it—Eid is just around the corner.

Designers spend sleepless nights to offer new and gorgeous attire for the fashion-frenzied. The work actually starts much earlier. Six months in advance orders must be placed for the materials, designs have to be set, additional printers, and tailors have to be employed and what not.

When I started designing almost 29 years ago on Balaka silk, it was something of a new concept as designer fashion was still a fledgling business. There were a handful of designers and customers tended to favour imported saris. The only silk factory in Rajshahi produced high quality silks, but the print and colour became repetitive. Block printing saris was far from easy. The silk had to be hand washed to get the wax polish off, dried then printed on. Block designs had to be collected from Narshingdi. As a finishing touch the saris had to be sent to the factories for steaming and polishing.

The process was arduous, though worthwhile. But slowly the tide seemed to have turned as designers entered the market in increasing numbers.

Over the years designer boutiques have mushroomed. Some are household names, some are starting to make waves.

Now it's a pleasure to see so many of our country's talents hosting exhibitions, opening boutiques, and winning customers over to our indigenous designs!

TV WATCH REMEMBERING Humayun Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In observance of the first death anniversary (July 19) of legendary litterateur and filmmaker Humayun Ahmed, Channel i is to air a four-daylong TV programme. Based on Humayun Ahmed's last script, a telefilm "Jodi Bhalo Na Lage To Dio Na Mon" will be aired at 12:05pm on July 18. Directed by Raihan Khan, the cast of the telefilm includes Swiss actress-model Jenin, Bangladeshi actress Purnima and popular model Nobel. The telefilm has been re-edited.

A Humayun Ahmed feature film "Dui Duari" will be aired at 2:40 pm while a special musical programme featuring songs penned by Ahmed will be aired the same day at 11:30pm. Emceed by Channel i Shera Kantha artiste Konal, popu-

lar folk singer Bari Siddiqui and noted artiste Subir Nandi will perform songs at the programme.

The programmes of July 19 have been specially arranged in memory of Humayun Ahmed. Elocutionist Jayanta Chattopadhyay and singer SI Tutul will present poems and songs at 7:30am. A special episode of "Tritiyo Matra" will go on air at 9:30am. Ahmed's film songs will follow at 1:05pm. Directed by Meher Afroz Shaon, telefilm "Neemphul" will be aired at 2:40pm. "Khudey Gaanraaj" will be aired at 7:50pm while a biographical programme titled "Je Aa(n)dhar Alor Odhik", participated by litterateurs Emdadul

Haq Milon and Anisul Haque and magician Jewel Aich, will be aired at 11:30 on the day.



Art for life's sake

Group art exhibition at Zainul Gallery

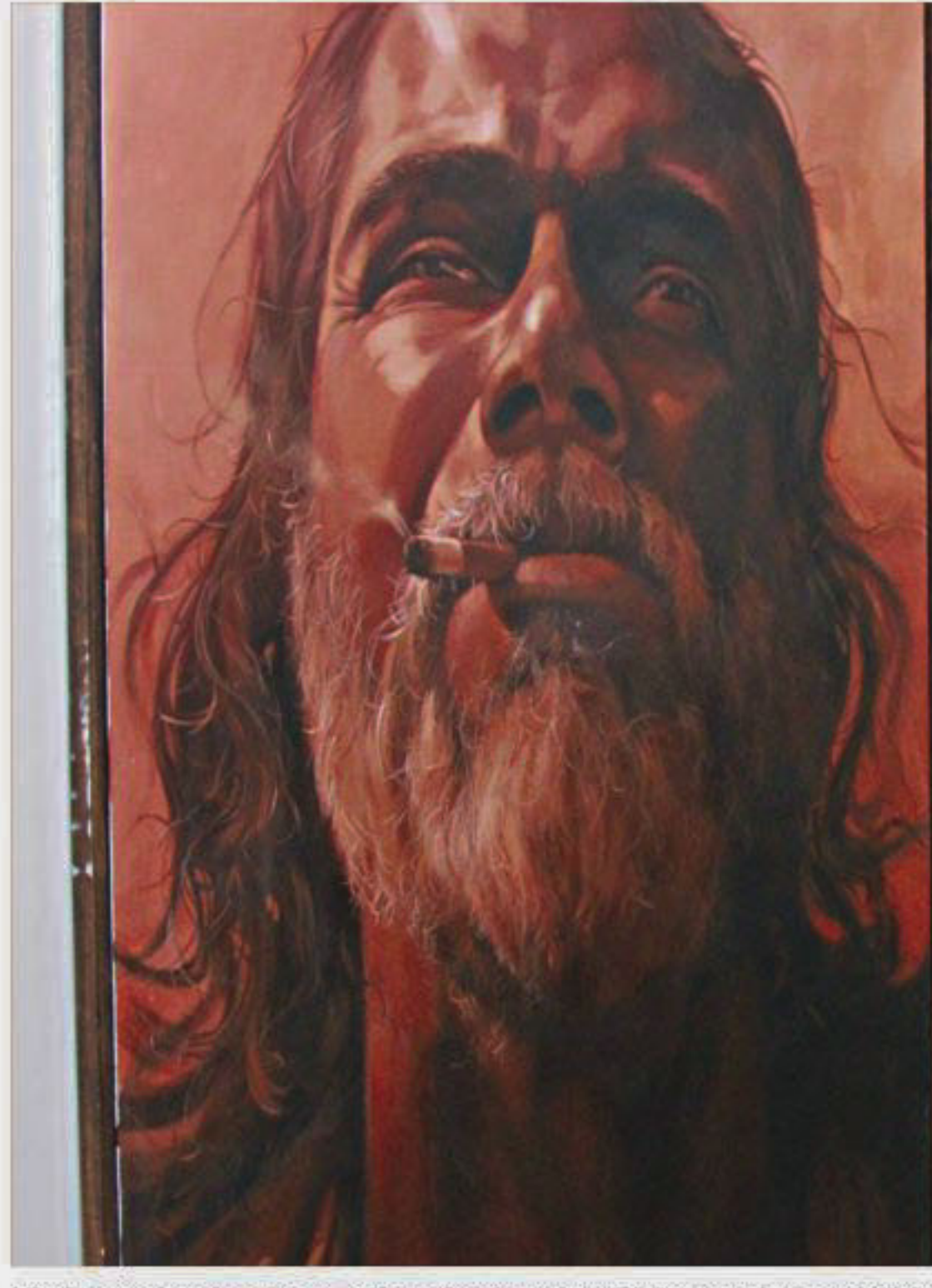
ZAHANGIR ALOM

"Art for art's sake" is the usual English rendering of a French slogan from the early 19th century, "l'art pour l'art", and expresses a philosophy that the intrinsic value of art, and the only "true" art, is divorced from any didactic, moral or utilitarian function. Here the value of art reigns supreme. Of course, art is priceless; but the life of an artiste and his continual imagination process are equally priceless too; because he has many artworks to create. Here scientist Albert Einstein's excerpt "Imagination is more important than knowledge" is relevant. Knowledge or fact is eternal but the imagination carries the potentiality of generating myriads of facts or knowledge. An artist's life should never be halted due to a disease that is curable.

An art exhibition titled "Fida'r Jonno" is currently on at Zainul Gallery-2 to collect funds for talented artist Sayed Fida Hossain. Fida, an MFA student of the Department of Drawing and Painting of Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), Dhaka University, has been suffering from Familial Colonic Prolepsis Cancer. He wants to live and let his artistic genius flourish! It is we, the art lovers and collectors who can help save his life. Fida's dream of depicting art dates back to his early childhood. He searches for life and his pleasure rests in colour and brush. Fida bagged a National Award while he was a second year student. We can find his brilliance in the international arena too. He was placed third in drawing category in a visual art competition organised in Iran.

Approximately Taka 40 lacs is needed for Fida's treatment. His family is unable to bear the entire cost. Which is why Fida's friends, and students from all the departments of FFA have organised the exhibition featuring a hundred artworks in diverse media including watercolour, acrylic, oil, lithograph, etching, woodcut, print, charcoal, pencil drawing, sculpture and more.

Stepping into the gallery, a visitor will easily notice a big portrait on oil. Fida has done the work with deft use of colour, tone and minute details of expression of a middle-aged person puffing a cigarette in an engrossed



Visitors look at an oil painting by Fida at the exhibit.



PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

yet relaxed mood. A dancing figure with extraordinary texture has been depicted against a blue background by Jhuma. The exhibition features several abstract, semi-abstract, realistic works of exquisite excellence. Raku sculptures on display appear very creative and aesthetic. A raku work by Raju portrays an experimental skyward face. The work is beautiful in terms of texture. Shikh Latifa Aktar and Hossain al Bannah have depicted two landscapes in watercolour. The works, depicted in yellowish green, have a soothing charm. Masud Hasan's landscape relates the saga of romance while several other works represents close-up

features of untainted nature, flowers and many more. "Nature" (lithograph) by Bibek is outstanding. Sculptures by Nobendu Saha Nobo, Monindra, Ashik and others deserve accolades. Besides, several non-framed works are on display too. Art lovers can buy and collect those for a good cause.

The exhibition opening from 10am to 8pm everyday was inaugurated by the Minister for Jute and Textiles Abdul Latif Siddique, MP as chief guest on July 14. Artists Jamal Ahmed and Nissar Hossain were present as guests. Dean of FFA Abul Barq Alvi presided over the inaugural programme. The exhibition ends on July 30.

On the occasion of the 3rd death anniversary of actor Bulbul Ahmed, Bulbul Ahmed Tritio Mirtubarshiki Udjapon Committee-13 organised a memorial meeting and film screening on July 17. The event was held at Seminar Hall of National Theatre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Film personality Chashi Nazrul Islam; Muhammad Hannan, former president of Bangladesh Film Directors Association (BFDA); Shahidul Islam Khokan, president of BFDA; Sohanur Rahman Sohan, vice-president of BFDA; Keramot Moula, vice-president of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and a number of cultural and theatre personalities and Ahmed's family members reminisced on the celebrated actor's life and contributions.



Highlighting the reading habit

Proshanta's solo exhibition at Café Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proshanta Karmakar Buddha is one of the talented painters in the present Dhaka art scene. His current solo exhibition is now on at Café Gallery in Gulshan 2. Theatre personality Sara Zaker was present as chief guest at the inaugural session of the exhibition. Architect Salahuddin Ahmed and journalist Rumi Noman were present as special guests. Noted art collector Durjoy Rahman Joy also spoke at the programme.

At the exhibition, Proshanta's acrylic-based paintings highlight book in different shapes. He has used crimson, azure, yellow, emerald green and purple. Around 23 artworks are on display at the exhibition.

About the exhibition, the artist said, "The exhibition's main aim is to increase the reading habit, broaden the intellectual faculty and promote creativity. I always feel there might be some limitations in our formal education system. The exhibition has emphasised the significance of reading books."

Proshanta has held several solo and group exhibitions in different parts of the world and has received a number of prestigious awards. He has done a series of works articulating riverine life, the Bede (gypsy) lifestyle, Liberation War, Language Movement and more. The exhibition ends on July 24.



An artwork by Proshanta Karmakar.

ALBUM REVIEW A Rough Guide to Flamenco

From Israel to the Camargue, and from Barcelona to North Africa, flamenco forms and fusions are enchanting the faithful and converting new audiences.

World Music Network, a well-known name in the world music scene, has recently released "A Rough Guide to Flamenco", as part of their "Rough Guide" series, giving an overview of different genres of music for listeners.

The album pays homage to the living flamenco tradition with the guitars of Son De La Frontera and the legendary voice of Carmen Linares, before discovering contemporary twists from the likes of Lenacay, and Ladino innovator Yasmin Levy.

Lenacay – born out of the disbanding of hip-hop flamenco innovators Ojos de Brujo in 2011 – seems to spin almost out of control with their fusions of bulerías, tangos, rumbas and soleas with Balkan, Latin and Indian music as well as club rhythms like dubstep and drum & bass, but are centered by flamenco. La Xula, who play sultry, avant-garde flamenco seduce by stealth.

Jerusalem-born Yasmin Levy brings her distinctive Ladino Jewish tradition to flamenco. While hers seems like a new branch, you might equally say she is rediscovering a forgotten strand of the roots of flamenco. Martirio, from Huelva, takes the sound forward through jazz treatments, and is equally at ease with tango, son and



guaracha. 'Fandangos' plays off a moody midnight swing piano against her soaring flamenco vocal line.

Spanish label Nuevos Medios, sometimes referred to as the 'Tamlá Motown of flamenco' is the home of Moorish-Cuban guitar quintet Son de la Frontera, flute and saxophone virtuoso (and Chick Corea collaborator) Jorge Pardo and Tomasa Guerrero Carrasco aka La Macanita, a singer who has stayed faithful to the gypsy cante style typical of her home town, Jerez de la Frontera.

These artists and the likes of Carlos Piñana, Londo, Carmelita Montoya and Carmen Linares are only 'conservative' in the sense that they embrace and nurture the ineffable, intangible quality of Andalusian flamenco: all are respected live performers, and bring that experience to their passionate, genre-expanding recordings.

Flamenco has a reputation for angst but with Mayte Martín's 'Por La Mar Chica Del Puerto' we discover its intimate side. Completely different, but also heart-felt, the Camargue-based Gitano Family turn even the gloomiest images into bittersweet country songs.

"The Rough Guide to Flamenco" also comes with a bonus disc, featuring the music of Buenos Aires-based Al Toque Flamenco.

Source: Internet