

Pervaj Hasan, *Agony of Intellectual Conflict 4.*



Ratnashwar Sutradhwar, *Grimace of Time 15*, acrylic on canvas, 2013.

Finding Their Place in the Sun

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"Finding a Voice", an exhibition provoked by the Shahbag Square protests at the Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, features sixteen emerging artists at varying stages of their careers.

Athena decided to organise a workshop from March 16-19 when people were spontaneously congregating at Shahbag during the month of March this year.

All the participants have ties with the Oriental Art Department and Drawing and Painting Department of the Faculty of Fine Art, Dhaka University. Participants include current students, recent graduates and even a handful of associate professors of the Faculty of Fine Art.

The Gallery, started by Zeenat Ikramullah and ..., has made huge efforts to have successful artists like Kanak Champa Chakma guide the aspiring artists. This happens, occasionally, in other galleries too.

The subject of Ujjol Ghose's "Woman Waiting" has a haunted, disappointed look on her face. She appears to be in a state of misery – in the process of waiting but nothing happening as she had expected. She has long raven hair, her skin is an earthy brown; typical of women in the subcontinent.

Mizanur Rahman Fakir's painting features a typical beauty in red sari. Behind her stands a banana tree with a myna bird and shrubs with fleshy pointed, emerald leaves surrounding it.

Azmol Hosen's piece "Journey" shows fine figures of toiling male, displaying their admirable physiques and muscles. The figures in this painting are reminiscent of films like "Gladiator" or "Ben Hur" or figures from artist Shahabuddin's works.

There is then the full blown rose, and a pair of matching pink lips featured in Bubly Barna's "Self Analyses of Contemporary Women." The focus here is on the heart of the flamingo-pink, cabbage shaped rose; the painted lips are also very realistic.

Mohammed Mainuddin's "Hurt Woman", shows the image of a worn-out, middle-aged face holding on to her cheeks, defeated by the realities