

Six Seasons 1, oil on canvas, 186x93cm, 1976.

AGONY AND ECSTASY OF DEBDAS

FAYZA HAQ

Debdas Chakraborty has been known for his deep commitment not only to his own calling but in spreading his knowledge about art to younger generations. Being a witness to all the great movements in our history his art often reflects the anguish and joy that people of this land have experienced through struggle and strife.

It took a lot of courage for Debdas to leave Calcutta—where he had a job — and cross to the then East Pakistan. He joined hands with Zainul Abedin, Mohammed Kibria and Shafiuddin to teach the younger artists like Rafiqun Nabi and Monirul Islam.

He lost his wife to cancer early in life. He suppressed his pain and loneliness and expressed nature and life, working with flamboyant colours to create both abstract and semi- abstract works.

He brought in boats, birds, clouds, fish, women rain – and the six seasons of Bengal. As a humanist his themes centred on man against nature. He included the elements of love and happiness, society and economic factors around him. For him patriotism and art was one and the same thing.

He was always associated with the Art College



Still Life, oil on canvas, 28x43cm, 1957.