

WHAT'S ON

Discussion on Tagore
Venue: Bangla Academy
Date: Aug 4
Time: 11am



Photography Exhibition
on Tajuddin Ahmad
Venue: Gallery 21, 751
Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi
Date: July 23-August 8
Time: 12pm-8pm



Group Print Exhibition
Title: Under Pressure
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge,
Gulshan-1
Date: July 5-August 10
Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Sculpture Exhibition
Title: Shekor-er Gaan
Artist: Samiran Dutt
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7,
R-13, Dhanmondi
Date: July 29-August 10
Time: 10am-8pm



Street Show of Doodles
Artist: Mustapha Khalid
Palash
Venue: Hotbread, R-11,
Banani, Dhaka
Date: Aug 6-Sep5
Time: 7pm-10pm



The music of friendship

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Many oppose the concept of "Friendship Day". The argument is that friendship does not require a day to be celebrated; it is celebrated everyday. Initiated in 1930 by a greeting card company, it has become a global phenomenon today. Although the official day set by the UN General Assembly for International Friendship day is July 30, most people in this part of the world celebrate it on the first Sunday of August. And there are very few mediums to express feelings easier and more effective than music. Modern Bangla music has had its share of songs on friends and friendship, from the yearning of missing a friend to celebrating it to the devastation in the demise of a friend.

Manna Dey's "Coffee House er Shei Adda" is one of the most iconic songs on friendship in Bangla. The simple, storytelling style free-flowing lyrics with a melodious composition has literally made it a timeless classic. From the other side of the border, the other songs that stand out are

"Hothat Rastay" and "Haal Chero Na Bondhu" by Kabir Sumon. The first is a touchy number about reuniting with a friend after a long time, while the second is an uplifting song, calling on the friend to never give up. Shubhamita's "Jodi Bondhu Hou Tobe Barao Haat" is another sickly-sweet song, giving hope to a friend in despair, and letting them know that friends are always there in times of need.

Back here, the most popular bands and artistes of the '80s and '90s have at least one major hit on friendship under their belt. James (Nogor Baul) has "Tobe Bondhu Nouka Bherao", an open, expressive song calling out for friends and singing songs to them, and "Jedin Bondhu Chole Jabo", bidding adieu in advance to friends, asking to be remembered through the song. Renaissance's "Tumi Ki Aj Bondhu" is another happy song calling on friends, while Souls' "Dekha Hobe Bondhu" is a somewhat melancholic take on a distant friend. The band's frontman Partha Barua has a beautiful song "Bondhu Toke Miss Korchi Bhishon" to his credit as well. Ayub Bachchu's "School Jibon" is another amazing, albeit underrated song, zooming in on

the bonds of the very childhood friends and a vivid narrations of sweet memories. Warfaze's "Bondhu" is another one on the list, delving in the line between friendship and love.

More recent artistes have also had some massively popular songs on friendship, varying widely in theme. Kanak & Karthik's "Tumi Amar Pashe Bondhu Hey" is a simple, yet poetic plea to a friend, to just sit down beside him. Krishnakali's "Bondhu Tomar" is another lovely composition, versed like a conversation with a close friend, pouring the heart out. Tapu's "Bondhu Bojhe Amake" is a happy, upbeat song in typical simplistic lyrics that is very easy to relate to, sending in the message that as long there are friends, you're going to be fine.

One other song that remains worthy of the list, although it may not appear to be a song of friendship at a first glance. Artcell's "Obosh Onubhuti'r Deyal" was written as an elegy to the band's long-time lyricist and close friend Rupok, and is a powerful expression of a number of effects on the psyche at the loss of a close friend.



In quest of novel forms



TAKIR HOSSAIN

Mohammad Eunus is one of the leading painters from the '70s, when the nation was caught up in the freedom movement. At the time, the country faced many catastrophes and crossed a number of dilemmas -- a time when our art, literature proceeded with a new vision and novel ideas and themes. Eunus closely observed the changing socio-political and economic conditions of the country.

Eunus is a Professor at the Department of Graphic Design, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. His current style of choice is abstract expressionism. He frequently changes the arrangement of his forms and compositions as well as the overall structure of his paintings.

Over the last few years, Eunus has been constantly trying to give a new language and new-fangled shape to his paintings. He bears witness to the madness of the current times in an eruption of vicious shades in different layers. The eruption of colours is accompanied by contrast, and the reality of texture is created in the abstract expression.

When we closely observe Eunus' paintings, we can easily recognise his affinity for rich textured, both -- subdued and bold colours -- with various realistic and vague forms. He likes to play with various aspects

of nature, animal forms and structures in varied shapes. He tries to ensure an intense combination between colours and forms. Smoothness is another trait of his paintings.

Eunus took advantage from his academic skill to create a language of his own by the contemporary abstract lingo. His symbolic views are basically two dimensional, with compactness of texture and intensity of tonal harmony. Very insightful managing of colours in shade with shiny white, green, emerald green, ultramarine blue and solemn tones of dark russet, ochre, crimson, gray and even black created a connection between the spectators and the artist's understanding and thinking process.

Eunus feels that drawings are an appearance of the thoughts, the inner world and what literally makes the daily life of an artist. The artist frequently tends to draw from memory. He carries a sketchbook with him wherever he goes, so he can portray observations from his surroundings. The process assists him to recollect the memories which ultimately provide the inspiration for many of his compositions. His works show the world the way he sees it, and manifest the essence of the things he has seen. His paintings are also mirror of his mind frame. His lines signify the modern mode of expression. His

expression features varied structures, oval, encircled and doodle forms. Gradually, figures have been missing in Eunus' works and various kinds of forms, symbols, textures, oval, triangular and rectangular shapes and lines have taken over the canvas. Geometric structures and architectural views give a new perspective to his works. Adjoining columns, slabs, walls, broken pillars, ruined walls, rusted pipes, broken doors, rickshaws, wrecked guitars, wheels, windows, scattered papers are recurring objects in his works. Some of the other motifs in Eunus' paintings are animals (horses, peacocks, and bison), ancient edifice, cactus, vessels, hills and sky. Some of his paintings clearly highlight pure composition. The compositions convey his fondness for translucent lines and tiny forms.

Some of his paintings feature faces where he has used scattered lines. Some faces seem primitive. The faces are not identical and each gives a unique look. His composition is styled with occasional oval shapes.

Despite living in Japan for a long time in pursuit of higher studies, Eunus has not been directly influenced by Japanese art. Japanese art is known for its soft colours, minimal expressions and meticulous lines and forms. His colours and forms clearly voice the dilemma of our times.

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Remote setting temperature: 23°C with Fan Speed (High)
Vertical Airflow direction: Auto, Horizontal Airflow direction: Front

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Air-conditioners: Up to 50% energy savings on top of ECONAVI -- Comparison of 1.5HP Inverter model and 1.5HP Non-Inverter model (Cooling). Outside temperature: 35°C/24°C. Remote setting temperature: 25°C with Fan Speed (High). Vertical Airflow Direction: Auto, Horizontal Airflow Direction: Front. Total power consumption amount is measured for 8 hours from start at Panasonic Amenity Room (size: 16.6m²). This is the maximum energy savings value, and the effect differs according to conditions in installation and usage.

Refrigerators: Up to 40% energy savings on top of ECONAVI -- Comparison between Inverter Compressor and Conventional Compressor with the same refrigerator and freezer compartment capacity. Washing machines: Up to 50% energy savings on top of ECONAVI -- Comparison between NA-FS series Inverter model and Non-Inverter model.

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Ellen DeGeneres to host '14 Oscars

US chat show host and comedian Ellen DeGeneres is to host the Oscars for a second time, it has been announced. "I am so excited to be hosting the Oscars for the second time. You know what they say - the third time's the charm," joked the presenter. DeGeneres hosted the 79th Academy Awards in 2007, watched by a TV audience of 39.9 million. She also received an Emmy nomination for it.

The Academy Awards will take place on Sunday, March 2, 2014.

Producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron said she was the perfect choice as "there are few stars today who have Ellen's gift for comedy, with her great warmth and humanity."

Cheryl Boone Isaacs who was elected to be president of the Academy just days ago said she "agreed immediately that Ellen is the ideal host for this year's show."



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