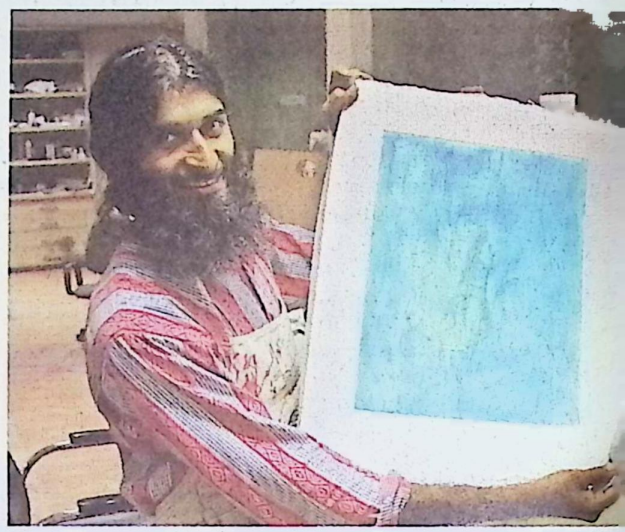
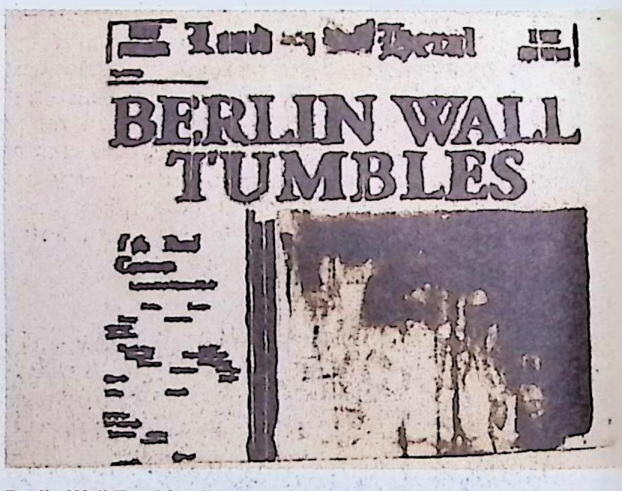


To the holy city, unique pressure print 2013.



Mukaddas Shadi



Berlin Wall Tumbles lithograph,2011.

Religion with Red Circles

FAYZA HAQ

Mukaddas Shadi Ahmed, 33, has the remarkable ability to combine religious fervour with contemporary hints. The concept of Ashura, with the grandsons of the Prophet is often in his mind. He depicts standing and bending figures. Hazrat Shah Jalal is written in naive Bangla and Arabic calligraphy. There are delicately shaped flowers, and leaves to depict an ever green spring—as well as a garden in Paradise. The door of the mosque is included and bewildering circles denote the frenzy, devotion and speed of praying. This is all in magenta and white sweeps. The tint of the ashes of roses will draw the viewer, if nothing else.

Red is used to symbolize the martyrdom of the grandsons of the Prophet. Sometimes he uses green, in memory of Madina Sharif. The colour is to denote peace, says Mukaddas.

As a child Mukaddas went to a mosque to study Arabic and Islamic teachings. He learnt to sing the Aazan or call to prayer. He also studied at St. Gregory's School in Lakhibazaar for 12 years. This broadened his horizon.

His skill at drawing was used do do the necessary make up for performers during school dramas. He sang 'Amar Sonar Bangla' with pleasure during assembly. Brothers Ralph, Robert and Leo and Brother Gerald, the principal were encouraging mentors for him. Their white flowing robes, tied with a black rope intrigued Mukaddas.

Mukaddas's fascination for art began he says, during Biology class as it involved drawing. He also drew for other students. He copied cartoons from newspapers.