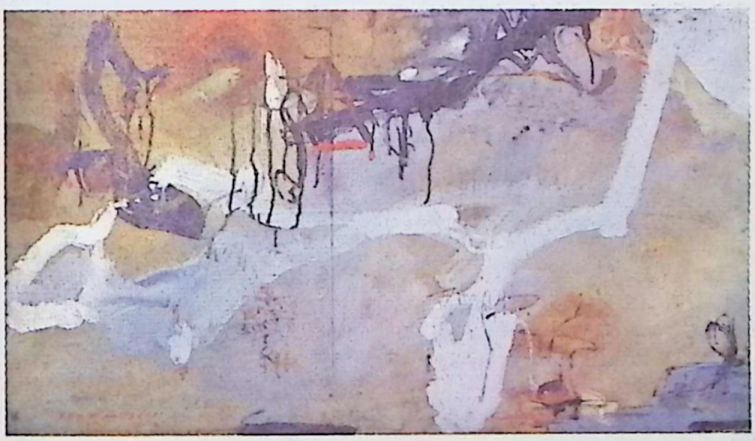
iconic figure in contemporary art, as he introduced modern paintings where compositions, colours and forms are major features. The exhibited paintings can be explained in many ways where one can find the touch of mysticism; some can get the taste of harmony, melancholy or despair. His mode of expression (in paintings) had been trademark through all his creations. In the showcased works one feels the lament of a lonely soul, an underlying sorrow or a feeling of bareness.

The collector is well known particularly for the large number of significant works by Rafiqun Nabi, whose development Joy has been following for over a decade. He is probably the largest painting collector of this artist. Two rare woodcut prints by the artist created during his stay in Greece are also included in the show.

Among contemporary Bangladeshi painters, Joy has a great fascination for Murtaja Baseer's works. He collected a number of paintings from the series of "The Wings" and "The Wall". The Wings" is one of Baseer's noteworthy series, articulating truth, beauty, romanticism and spirituality. The most significant part of the series is that all of the works have a deep correlation to each other but each painting denotes its individuality. In the series, abstraction has been attained through fractional representation of the whole and by the boldness of colours. Joy says, "Though I have large of collection of Rafiqun Nabi and Murtaja Baseer, I feel it is not the number but quality that should determine the collector's strength. The definition of the collector does not mean that person has to possess a large collection or buy in volume."



Monirul Islam, *Rain on White Fort*, acrylic on corrugated board, 90x153cm, 2004.

The collector has a number of worthy prints of Safiuddin Ahmed. He collected them from different sources. Safiuddin was a symbol of a purist artist. Every single piece of his work is labour intensive. He always searched for perfection in every piece and the labour continued until he was satisfied. His works has mainly focused on rural panorama, pastoral life, landscapes, floods and other natural calamities as well as Santal life.

Monirul Islam's different mediums of works have also enhanced his collection. At the exhibition, a painting of a large corrugated board enables the painter to portray his desired illusion and fantasy. The painter has used oxide colours, smoked black, different types of soil, coffee, marble dust, brick dust, burnt ground rice, acramin and natural pigments. The painter has used special glue that bonds the materials. Then he has worked on them with acrylic, oil, hand colour, pencil and other mediums to portray varied surrealistic and symbolic images, which feature elements of surprise, perplexity, unanticipated juxtapositions and vague forms.

Through the works of Mahmudul Haque, it is easily comprehended that the painter has a great fondness for compositions and forms. His works delve deep into the imaginary world and are remarkable for the artist's signature turquoise composition. His painting also presents a flat space with subtle colours as well as thick textures.

Some of the early works of Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, also in the collection where Samarjit's mode of expression is pure cubic realism. The collection has also been enriched by Samarjit's recent paintings, blending modern motifs with folk elements. Scribbles and thick lines criss-cross over his paintings. His lines are not polished at all. The uneven lines create an individual language, highlighting a rural essence to his paintings.

Joy has a number of artworks of Quamrul Hassan in different mediums of several periods. He has also a fascination for Shahabuddin's paintings and owns a number of oil paintings of the painter from 1972 to 2010. He collected most of them from the painter's residence in Paris. The collector said, "You can see the development of Shahabuddin through these works. In the beginning his figures were still, and then he started working on the movement. First he mastered the run, then the jump, then the cry. An artist grows with time, and an early work is very different from a later one."

Several Indian artists like Akbar Padamsee, Ram Kumar, Jamini Roy, Nandalal Bose, Subramanyam, Paresh Maity, Jogen Chowdhury, Paritosh Sen, Sunil Das, Bijen Chowdhury, MF Hussain, Sanat Kar and a number of European artists Pablo Picasso, Francis Bacon, David Hockney, Henry Moore, Andy Warhol and Lucian Freud have also enriched in his collection.

The exhibition will continue till February 3. ■