

Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Surawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy
Date: Feb 1-28
Time: 3pm-9pm



Dhaka Art Summit
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Segunbagicha
Date: Feb 7-9
Time: 10am-8pm



Musical Soiree
Artist: Shemonty Monjari
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1
Date: Feb 8
Time: 6:30pm



Private Collector's Exhibition
Collector: Durjoy Rahman Joy
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan
Date: Jan 24-Feb 10



Duet Art Exhibition
Title: Dui Bangal
Artists: Hashem Khan and Mohammad Iqbal
Venue: Gallery Twenty One, Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 6-Mar 1



DHAKA ART SUMMIT

THE QUEST for LIBERTY

TAKIR HOSSAIN

"Liberty" is a curatorial show of the ongoing Dhaka Art Summit which articulates a wide range of emotions and helps visualise freedom, sovereignty and free thought. Noted painter and gallerist Mohammad Muniruzzaman has curated the show at the first floor of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital. Liberty and its analytical significance are very much connected to the political, social and economic context of Bangladesh. Since the birth of the country, the people of the state have experienced political turmoil, religious bigotry and natural catastrophe. The people of the country lost their freedom in different periods for varied reasons. The artists of the country engaged themselves when the country faced any crisis. Their canvases always liberally express their thoughts, common people's rights, and were in favour of establishing democracy and secularism in our society.

The exhibition provides a chronological feature of Bangladeshi contemporary art. The show highlights the wide range of subjects but the theme of the exhibition -- "Liberty" -- is the focal point. The exhibition features several styles of different generations of painters in the country. The styles can be categorised as realistic, semi-realistic, abstract expressionism, abstract impressionism, symbolism, figurative, neo-expressionism, photo realism and more. Among the noticeable participating artists of the show are Syed Jahangir, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Monirul Islam, Abdus Shakoor Shah, Biren Shome, Chandra Shekhar Dey, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ranjit Das, Mohammad Eunos, Jamal Ahmed, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Shishir Bhattacharjee, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Mohammad Iqbal and others.

The exhibition includes the artists of genres of the '60s '70s, '80s and early '90s. To maintain individual languages, the painters depict personal feelings of liberty, rapid urbanisation, nature and its mysterious aspects, social and political crises, daily chores of varied occupations,



(Clockwise) Artworks by Mohammad Eunos, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury and Syed Jahangir.

surrounding atmospheres, folk tradition, urban and rural life and more. A number of painters have concentrated on pure form, composition and architectural lines and texture.

Syed Jahangir is the most senior painter at the show. He not only portrays beautiful Bangladesh, but some of his works also depict social and environmental issues like river erosion, hard-up labourers, untold hardships of peasants, fishermen and more. At the show, his "Midnight Sonata" is quite different from his early works, but soothing colours and composition carry his personal hallmark.

Samarjit Roy Chowdhury tends to incorporate many objects which can be

easily found in a rural setting. The work on display is no different. The painter still remembers his childhood days and emphasises his fascination with rural Bangla. His recurring motifs are birds, kites, leaves, wild flowers, boats, plants and fish.

Ranjit Das is a painter who focuses on time, life and various socio-cultural and political issues. His work is more technique-based and seems that the artist has been consistently experimenting.

The impasto application of paint in Mostafizul Haque's work denotes a horse with valiant force. Sheikh Afzal Hossain is a pure realist painter who has a passion for portraying the slum environment,

street children and underprivileged people in both the urban and rural setting.

"Heritage-1", a large canvas, carries Mohammad Eunos' meticulous brushing style. His individuality lies in his freedom of action; in the impulsive movements in which the solid brushstrokes are applied in reddish, ash and black shades, giving shape to various broken, tiny and amorphous forms.

At the exhibition, Mohammad Iqbal paints the visage of the children, whom he regards as overlooked and often uncared for. In recent times, he has portrayed many children's faces in approximately the same disposition. Through the oval shaped faces, the artist seeks to convey children's dreams, yearnings and the artist focuses on eyes. Their eyes are the predominant aspect of the paintings.

At the exhibition, Anisuzzaman's "Kaleidoscopic Complexity-37" shows a building under construction - with iron rods and steel plates giving it a bare look. The image depicts the steady construction in the big city.

The exhibition also includes the artworks of leading painters of early '90s. Their works are experimental based and they are constantly experimenting with lines, forms and space. Textural intensity is also emphasised in several painters' works in the exhibition. There is no doubt that Bangladeshi art has been enriched by them. Their working styles are bold, thought-provoking and their themes clearly reflect our political instability, religious intolerance, economic hardship and social discrimination.

Highlighting diverse themes Gallery Chitrak represents five Bangladeshi painters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city is now in a festive mood as the second edition of Dhaka Art Summit is going on. Gallery Chitrak, one of the significant galleries of the capital and the gallery represents five contemporary painters -- Abdus Shakoor Shah, Mohammad Muniruzzaman, Ahmed Nazir, Md. Zahir and promising sculptor Tejosh Halder Josh. The participating artists offer a novel look to the summit at the booth of the Gallery Chitrak at the Shilpakala Academy.

Abdus Shakoor Shah is widely recognised for his folk motifs and ballads. Over a large span of his career, the painter has been working on folk motifs and ancient ballads. At the painting, the painter has used straight lines, curves and scribbles while portraying human figure and objects. The painter was specially moved by the spirit of Bengali art.

Mohammad Muniruzzaman has a passion for portraying the splendour of nature -- tranquility, foggy environment, cloudy skies and hilly areas. He has also been highlighting the underprivileged people, the lives of freedom fighters and childhood memories in his works. It should be mentioned that the artist first focuses on his theme, than pours



A painting by Mohammad Muniruzzaman.

his effort to other technical aspects.

Md. Zahir is a watercolourist. As a naturalist artist, he prefers seasonal transformation, winter mornings, forests, rainy days, water vessels and blue skies. The subjects of his works appear in a sombre mood and their characteristics are consistently highlighted. His technique is particularly based on flat wash and thin colour.

Ahmed Nazir has been experimenting with prints for decades. As a socially and politically conscious artist, his works delve deep into the present unstable political condition. His war-based works have received acclaim and appreciation. His work is concept based and thought-provoking. At the exhibition, his acrylic based paintings carried varied tonal effects and subject has been truly highlighted.

Tejosh Halder Josh is a vibrant sculptor who always delivers strong messages through his metal-based works. On careful examination of his work at the exhibition, one would see that Josh endeavours to blend figuration with abstraction. His mode of expression is varied and his metal casting takes a different turn from the creativity of his strong and confident hands.



Finance Minister Abul Maal Abul Muhith inaugurated the second edition of the three-day Dhaka Art Summit yesterday as chief guest. Cultural minister Asaduzzaman Noor and Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister were present as special guests. Farooq Sobhan, chairman of organising committee of Dhaka Art Summit; Nadia Samdani, director of Dhaka Art Summit; and Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, spoke at the inauguration.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

The week that was Arts and culture news from across the country

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Ithemidah

Five talented personalities were honoured for their contribution to the cultural field at the district level on Friday. A cultural show was also staged by local singers.

The five who gained recognition were Ranjan Kumar Bhaumik (in the musical instrument category), Dr. Sudhir Samaddar (drama), Jalal Uddin (Jatra pala), Azizul Shah alias Mukul Shah (vocal) and Feroj Khan Noon (Lok Sangeet).

DC Shafikul Islam handed the medals to the awardees. Local artists performed dance and songs on the occasion.

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A month-long book fair and book exhibition kicked off in Pabna recently, marking the month of the Language Movement. The event also features discussions and cultural programmes at Pabna Town Hall premises.

Vice Chancellor of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) Professor Al Nakib Chowdhury inaugurated the book fair.

A cultural programme was also held at the inaugural function. Leading cultural organisation Gontobbo staged a dance performance. A musical programme was also one of the highlights of the inaugural.

"The Book Fair promotes cultural unity. Through the fair we will generate awareness about Bengali culture," said Professor Shibojit Nag, secretary of the Book fair organising committee.

Thirty three stalls have been set up at the book fair that will showcase the works of many local writers.

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Kamalganj

The quintessential rural Bengal image that dominates most of our

The two most popular among the items are bhapa and chittoi, alongside patishapta, rosher pitha, pakan, andosha, kulshi, pata pitha, jhuri pitha, muthi pitha and more.

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon District Shilpakala Academy has awarded five persons for their outstanding contribution in their relevant fields of music,



Artistes perform at Thakurgaon Shilpakala Academy.

PHOTO: STAR

text books is the scene of a cold-winter morning, children huddling around their mother while she prepares pitha in a mud-stove. The 8th pitha festival took place at the Eleven Star club, Kamalganj Upazila premises and was organised by Pitha Utshob Udjapon Committee recently.

literature, art, folk music and theatre. The creative personalities from different arenas received the awards at a ceremony at the auditorium of district Shilpakala Academy on Wednesday. The awardees are poet Abul Hossain Sarcar for literature, Mozammel Haque Bablu for music, Rupkumer Guha Thakurata for

theater, Mir Mosharaf Hossain Shabu for arts and Shachindranath Roy for folk music.

Former Water Resources Minister and also Lawmaker of Thakurgaon-1 constituency Ramesh Chandra Sen was present as chief guest at the programme. Prior to the award-giving, artistes of district Shilpakala Academy performed a vibrant cultural programme that included choral songs, group dances and recitation. Before ending the programme, a local cultural group also staged the traditional 'Dhamer Gaan'.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The launching ceremony of a book titled "Porisrom, Shotota, Noitikota" (Industry, Honesty and Morality), was held recently at a training centre in the town. A discussion was held to mark the launch of NGO personality Alhaj Abdur Rashid's maiden book.

Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqui, mayor of Mymensingh Municipality Ekramul Haque Titu and poet Dr. Selina Rashid addressed the gathering at the event, among others. The speakers said Abdur Rashid's book will inspire people to be successful through hard work, honesty and morality.

The ceremony ended with a cultural show performed by local artistes.

Saraswati Puja celebrated at Jagannath Hall



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saraswati Puja was celebrated on February 4 with zeal as devotees, teachers and students poured in at Jagannath Hall premises of Dhaka University to pay their respect to Saraswati, the deity of knowledge and the arts. As one of the biggest Saraswati Puja celebrations of the sub-continent, the event featured different Departments of Dhaka University organising a grand celebration of idols.

To mark the occasion, Jagannath Hall authorities organised a cultural programme at its premises on February 5. With the title "Manoshey Romotang Nityong Sarbashukla Saraswati", the event featured rendition of songs, dance performances and more.

Renowned singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya performed "Amar Hiyar Majhey Lukiye Chhiley" and "Kotobaro Bhebechhinu" that won hearts of the audience. Noted singer Subir Nandi captivated the crowd with his popular songs "Amar E Duti Chokh"

and "Koto Je Tomake Beshechhi Bhalo".

Accomplished singer Bizon Chandra Mistry first rendered a Shyama Sangeet composed by Kazi Nazrul Islam followed by a Jatilshwar Mukherjee composition "Bodhua Amar Chok-e Jol Enechhe". Talented singer Alope Kumar Sen first rendered a ghazal, originally recorded by Pankaj Udash and later rendered a Hindi film track "Aaoge Jab Tum", recorded by Ustad Rashid Khan. Promising folk singer Biman Chandra Biswas, performed "Tui Jodi Amar Hoiti". Sushmita Debnath Suchi rendered solo songs while another Indian singer Jhumur Chatterjee ['Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' champion] also performed solos at the programme.

Two dancers --Sohel and Shokh --swayed the huge crowd dancing to a medley of folk melodies including, "Takdum Takdum Bajai", "Bhalo Koria Bajalorey Dotora", "Je Jon Premer Bhab Janey Na", "Krishna Aila Radhar Kunjey", "Amar Ghum Bhangaiya Gelo Go" and "Sadher Lau". Tiktu Barua and Nadia later performed a dance at the event.