By All Means, Paint

Rafiqun Nabi, the quintessential master artist says art can play an important role in the development of the country

Art can improve a community's competitive edge by creating a foundation for defining a sense of place, attracting new and visiting populations, and integrating the visions of community and business leaders. Many European countries have developed thriving tourism industries based on art. Each year the pyramids of Egypt attract millions of tourists. Our folk art is rich and unique. It has a great potential if we learn how to promote it in the international market. Our modern art has gained a respectable place in the world. Art is the only sector that has never let our country down. Initiatives to introduce young artists of Bangladesh to big auction houses of the world should be taken. Bodies like the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Shilpakala Academy may arrange fairs in the country and abroad where upcoming artists can show off their talent. Artists are sensitive people. If the society is not peaceful their work gets affected. You cannot sing if you are unhappy. Art is an acquired taste. Art is a language. It has its own ABCs which must be taught at the school level so students can develop an intellect for it. Our taste for art has grown with time. Now some people actually spend a good amount of money to buy art. There was a time when an artist could or would work in isolation. Times have changed. Someone cannot become a great artist only by drawing. He or she has social responsibilities. On the other hand, his or her contribution must be acknowledged by the mass instead of his or her fellow artists alone. Only then can artists contribute to the development of the country. ■



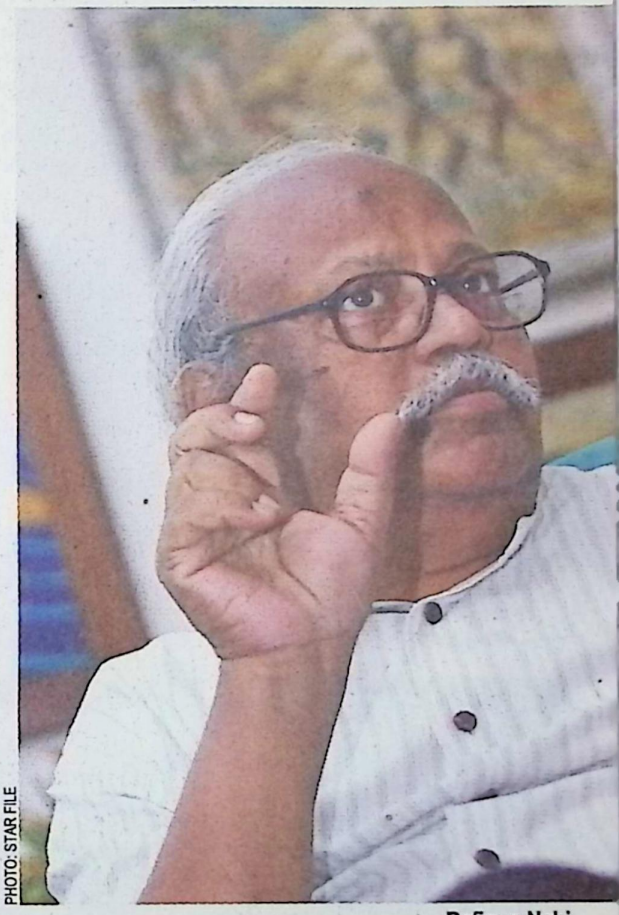


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Rafiqun Nabi

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