

Anika Ahmed is a young entrepreneur who has entered the restaurant business recently, and has already reached great heights with The Glasshouse Brasserie.

The Glasshouse Brasserie opened its doors for customers on 15th September 2013.

They serve Continental and Thai cuisine. "I had been nurturing the idea of opening a cafe for a long time. At that time, Dhaka did not have any cafes but I was busy with my studies, so that idea never saw the light of day. In 2013 the place where The Glasshouse is now became vacant. That is when I put serious thought on setting up a restaurant," says Anika.

Anika did her schooling in South Breeze School and Scholastica (O Levels). She completed her BBA and MBA from Independent University Bangladesh (IUB), majoring in Marketing and minor in Management. "I started my business career with a designer store called Ogaan Signature Collection in 2004 with my friend, Kaniz Afroze Shumeer. We are still running it quite successfully. It was something we started as a part-time career since we were both full-time homemakers," says Anika. She and her husband are both self-proclaimed foodies, who like to taste different cuisines. "I guess our love for food guided us to open this restaurant." Following her mother's footsteps, Anika says, "My mother was an entrepreneur too. She started her handicraft business in 1978 and had long, successful career."

The Glasshouse Brasserie is now becoming the talk of the town amongst young people. It is the perfect place for

FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD

NAZIBA BASHER
PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Anika Ahmed

anyone wanting to hang out with friends or family, for quality time spent over great food in a comfortable ambience. "We also have corporate professionals coming in for business lunches or meetings."

Anika plans to work hard to make The Glasshouse Brasserie one of the best restaurants in Dhaka city. "For this, my team and I are continuously researching and trying out dishes which taste great and look good too. We take customer

feedback very seriously and try to make changes to please them," she says. Considering that the food industry is extremely competitive now, Anika hopes to make her place among the top by providing excellent food and great service. "People have different tastes and the food business is very sensitive because what might appeal to one person may not be so tasty to another," she says. According to her, the only way

to survive in this industry is by offering good food, personalised service, and by maintaining good hygiene standards in the restaurant.

At the moment, Anika has her hands full not only with the booming popularity of her restaurant and boutique, but also with her husband and children. "I am just concentrating on the present now and hoping the future will be more positive and successful."

In the world of art, Firoz Mahmud needs no further introduction. From New York to Tokyo, his work has been showcased in more than 200 exhibitions and received immense popularity among art critics. He has won awards such as the Shilpachariya Zainul Gold Medal, the Countess Enid Driscoll-Spa Prize, the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant and much more. Though he says he is mostly inspired by S M Sultan, over the years, Firoz has established his own signature style which portrays his own thoughts. Apart from his art he is also an assistant professor at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh.

Firoz Mahmud's journey into the world of art began from a very early age. "I loved to draw and used to draw on anything I could get my hands on," says Firoz. "My father was a lawyer and I remember I even drew on his important documents. Needless to say my creativity wasn't well received." After completing his schooling in Khulna, Firoz got admission in Dhaka University, Institute of Fine Arts, where the doors to the creative world opened for him. "This was the first time I felt I

THE WORLD OF COLOUR

APURBA JAHANGIR
PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

found my own space where I could be invincible," says the artist.

After completing his Masters, Firoz was awarded with the Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten fellowship in Germany. "Every artist has a turning point in their lives and getting this grant was mine. It showed me that whatever I am doing is good and I can keep doing this for the rest of my life," says Firoz. Though his work was already being exhibited around the globe, his illustration in Tokyo named Sucker wfp21 gave him the spotlight he deserved. "The idea was to create the Super Hornet F/A18, a plane used in World War 2 with earthly elements such as

beans and rice. I wanted to show how these deadly machines truly affect our society," says Firoz. He also adds, "I was a little sceptical at first, but the response was more than I was hoping for."

From paintings to illustration, Firoz has mastered most of it. When asked if he considers himself a painter or an illustrator he says, "My true identity is that I am an artist. I don't just want to be a painter or an illustrator because that just limits your creativity." Firoz is currently working on his paintings inspired by Mughal manuscripts which will be exhibited this coming June in New York.



Firoz Mahmud