

An Artistic Mind Doesn't Always Work in a Mess



Popularly known for mask-making, Juisse's primary interest still is painting. He believes in exploring different media and engages in incorporating two or more combinations, which many deem unconventional.

His studio is within his house, and to my surprise, is just as neat and tidy as the rest of it. This is a personal preference of Juisse as it allows him to work late into the night and gives him the added advantage of avoiding the horrendous traffic of Dhaka city.

Most of his time is spent in his studio. Juisse has arranged for several tables so that he can move from one place to another, working simultaneously on a few things. When he works, he likes to listen to subtle Bangla music in the background. While taking a break from work, he sometimes brings in a book from his collection, sits among his art work in progress and reads it.

Juisse's studio is practical. Wall cabinets are put all around to store his art supplies. Tables by the windows display sculptures made by him and also hold the sketch books that Juisse maintains for personal drawings that are close to his heart. One table sits in the middle of the room which will deceive you at first glance. What appears to be

compact has the ability to be home to Juisse's essentials. It is specially designed and contains about six drawers both on the front and the back, with extendable counter tops on either side.

The drawers consist of water, poster and acrylic colours, as well as mask making papers, glues and other accessories. Because of its unique design, some architecture students sometimes come over to study this.

Juisse cleans up after his work himself. He insists that even though the counter tops look spotless, if someone else tried searching for one particular thing, they would get lost in the millions of elements that live in these drawers and cabinets.

Juisse believes he got lucky because there are no high-rise buildings around that can block out the natural light from entering his studio. This keeps his mind calm and helps him focus. He also takes a great interest in gardening and has a commendable collection of plants which he has maintained over many years.

Just a few steps from the studio will bring you to the rooftop. Here, you can so easily lose yourself among the greenery. Juisse says he doesn't ever need to go very far to look for inspiration.

Working and living in a beautiful mess is what you expect of artists. Juisse, obviously, is an exception. You will feel like going back there over and over again because visiting once cannot be enough.

By Maesha Nuzhat Nazmul

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Walking up to the main door of Saidul Haque Juisse's home, I could smell the paint and mixture of oil in the air. Upon entering, I realised I needed to leave my pre-conceived idea of an artist's studio outside because I was about to be proven wrong.



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■ বাডু বাম এখন আকর্ষণীয় গ্লাস বোতলে পাওয়া যাচ্ছে।