

PIONEERING A NEW ART

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Shimul Saha's innovative visual arts have always been one of the major attractions in any art exhibition. Saha has introduced a new dimension of visual art by using entirely unique materials to depict day to day struggles of human life, philosophical ideas and messages of peace and equality in a mind blowing manner. He is the first artist in Bangladesh who uses transparent medium and light as the key materials for his artistic creations.

A graduate from the department of sculpture of Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, Saha has always been a freethinker about art and craftsmanship. Change, experiment and innovations are the only rules he follows. "I am very fortunate that in the department of sculpture we had enjoyed the freedom to experiment with new ideas and our teachers used to encourage us to create new things," says Saha.

"This freedom helped me a lot to cope up with the dynamic curriculum of Beaconhouse National University at Lahore where I completed MA in art and design studies. Knowledge from these two renowned art

institutions has helped me launch the totally new concept of visual art," adds Saha.

Saha uses transparent material and light to depict his message. He uses transparent acrylic sheets, LED lights, phosphorus coat and many uncommon materials to create an attractive, mysterious milieu of light and shade while describing the message of humanity. "I have to research a lot on the materials before using them on my creation. Even in some cases I had to spend six months just to find which materials would be perfect to illustrate my message in the art. Instead of putting light on the art, I create them in such a way that they glow from within," says Saha.

One of his amazing works is called "Couple of Sip" which is actually resembles a pair of beautifully designed wine glasses at the first glance. However, if anyone looks at the shadow of the glowing glasses made of nickel metal, he or she will see that the shadow reveals



Beyond Comprehension, X-Ray plate and lightbox, 40x30cm each, 2012.

thousands of symbols representing male and female clinging to each other thus giving the message that every person in the society irrespective of their biological identity are equal and dependent on each other.

One of his recent works titled "Towards the Being" has impressively depicted human's struggle to survive by fighting against cancer. For this piece of art, Saha has used sandpaper, slabs of Plaster of Paris and backlit light to illustrate how mysterious cancer cells grow silently in human body and make a strong, fatal impact in the end.

For his pioneering role in visual art, Saha's works have

been exhibited in numerous renowned art exhibitions at home and abroad. He was awarded with honourable mention in the 21st National Art Exhibition in 2015 organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Saha is also a trustee of Britto Arts Trust, a non-profit organisation fully run by artists. The organisation has been working to introduce newer and more innovative forms and mediums of art to the emerging Bangladeshi artists. Besides creating new art pieces, Saha also teaches about new media and sculpting with light and transparent medium in different art institutions.



Shimul Saha

STAR PEOPLE

QUIRKY SCIENCE

PHOBOS IS FALLING PART

APURBA JAHANGIR

The long, shallow grooves lining the surface of Phobos are likely early signs of the structural failure that will ultimately destroy this moon of Mars.

Orbiting a mere 3,700 miles (6,000 kilometers) above the surface of Mars, Phobos is closer to its planet than any other moon in the solar system. Mars' gravity is drawing in Phobos, the larger of its two moons, by about 6.6 feet (2 meters) every hundred years. Scientists expect the moon to be pulled apart in 30 to 50 million years.

"We think that Phobos has already started to fail, and the first sign of this failure is the production of these grooves," said Terry Hurford of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

The findings by Hurford and his colleagues are being presented Nov. 10, 2015, at the annual Meeting of the Division of Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society at National Harbor, Maryland.

Phobos' grooves were long thought to be fractures caused by the impact that formed Stickney crater. That

collision was so powerful, it came close to shattering Phobos. However, scientists eventually determined that the grooves don't radiate outward from the crater itself but from a focal point nearby.

More recently, researchers have proposed that the grooves may instead be produced by many smaller impacts of material ejected from Mars. But new modeling by Hurford and colleagues supports the view that the grooves are more like "stretch marks" that occur when Phobos gets deformed by tidal forces.



NEW FOUND VENUS

The collection of rocky planets orbiting distant stars has just grown by one, and the latest discovery is the most intriguing one to date. The newfound world, although hot as an oven, is cool enough to potentially host an atmosphere. If it does, it's close enough (only 39 light-years away) that we could study that atmosphere in detail with the Hubble Space Telescope and future observatories like the Giant Magellan Telescope.

"Our ultimate goal is to find a twin Earth, but along the way we've found a twin Venus," says astronomer David Charbonneau of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA). "We suspect it will have a Venus-like atmosphere too, and if it does we can't wait to get a whiff."

"This planet is going to be a favorite target of astronomers for years to come," adds lead author Zachory Berta-Thompson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

GJ 1132b, as the planet is known, orbits a red dwarf star only one-fifth



the size of our Sun. The star is also cooler and much fainter than the Sun, emitting just 1/200th as much light. GJ 1132b circles its star every 1.6 days at a distance of 1.4 million miles (much closer than the 36-million-mile orbit of Mercury in our solar system).

Source: Sciencedaily.com

FIVE THINGS

INEFFICIENT MEETINGS DEALING WITH BLACK HOLES

M H HAIDER

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Farzana Haque often frowns when she sees her schedule. Being a manager of the client service team of an advertising and public relations agency is one hectic job. On top of that, her office hours fly away with numerous meetings she attends. "I have an average of about four meetings a day," she says. "In worst of times, the number had reached as high as ten!"

Her complaint is that many of these meetings are either unnecessary or run very inefficiently. "They're black holes," she comments. If you are to save yourself and your organisation some avoidable money, time and energy, keep these simple ideas in mind.



To meet or not to meet
That is the question. "It is inefficient when you call a meeting for something that you could solve easily in a conversation," Farzana opines from her own harsh experience. Before you call a meeting, ask yourself whether you really need one. If someone else has called a meeting which you think is irrelevant, politely decline if possible and ask for a 'mini-meeting'. For example, instead of booking a meeting room at your office to discuss a small issue with a couple of colleagues, get the work done over a cup of coffee at the cafeteria.

The perks of this day and age
As a professional living in the twenty first century, you have fantastic, mind-blowing technology at your disposal. Getting from Point A to Point B for a meeting, in the city of Dhaka, is not easy. Instead of fighting through the dire traffic, opt for virtual meetings, using tools like video conferencing. Get most out of applications like Skype and Viber. Get work done through phone calls, for that matter. Of course, there are instances when you must meet in person. But asses when you can avoid that and when you absolutely cannot.

Homework
Preparation is vital. Marufa Zafar is a third year BBA student at a private university. She often gets frustrated during meetings with her group members for assignments and projects. "Someone will forget to bring laptop while another will act as if he just landed on Earth, clueless about the assignment or deadline or the course. We spend a lot of time fretting about things that we should have already sorted out," she says. Coming to a meeting prepared saves a lot of time and increases the chance of making it successful.

Why are we here?
Now that's an universal, philosophical question! It is also one that you ought to ask in order to make your meeting successful. "Meetings are inefficient when you don't have specific talking points or your talking points are too broad," Farzana points out.

Fix the purpose(s) of the meeting, and the success of your meeting depends whether you are able to achieve that or not. Everybody should have a clear idea why the meeting has been called and what is their role in it. Don't get carried away and fall off-road.

Too many cooks
Don't spoil the meeting by inviting too many people. Spare them the annoyance and yourself, the inefficiency. After all, the efficiency formula is 'output over input, multiplied by hundred'. Efficient meeting is, therefore, one where you achieve the desired output using minimal input.

Labik Kamal Gaurob, singer-songwriter of Bangladeshi folk music band 'Ajob', is a popular name nationally and internationally for his Baul Fusion songs. The rock fusion band 'Ajob' was founded by him in 2001 and since then, he has been the lead vocalist of the band. Pursuing his education in Sound Audio Engineering (SAE) in London, he successfully established himself as a renowned musician in the circuit of folk and baul music in Bangladesh.

Being at hand in Baul and Folk music, the talented and exceptional musician also has some other skills with several instruments like Khomok, Dotara, Guitier etc. These techniques have made him an all-rounder and he is now recognised as a multi-talented musician in the country with a lot of possibilities.

Ajob's first debut album 'Ajob' was released by Ektar Music Ltd in 2006. Later, in 2009, Gaurob introduced his first solo album "Paar Koro" in which, he mainly focused on baul songs. The songs of the album of "Paar Koro" were greatly praised by baul music lovers, as well as the international folk music aficionados. Ajob's second album, "Hajar Bhooter Rajar Doya", released under the label of Bengal Music Company Limited in 2013, was also produced by Gaurob.

Apart from these three albums, Gaurob worked and is still working with different projects of home and abroad. He has worked with international dance choreographer Akram Khan for his production "Desh". Also, he has toured with 'UK Mercury' nominated Jazz artist Zoe Rahman and recorded with her for her album "Where Rivers Meet". Furthermore, he has recorded and performed with UK based Cuban Jazz Band "Lokkhi Terra", BBC Three, South Bank Centre multiple times.

Besides Ajob, Gaurob is an active member of the latest band 'Shikor Bangladesh All Stars' along with the legend baul musicians Nazrul Islam, Baby Akter, Rob Fakir,

THE 'AJOB' BAUL

NILIMA JAHAN

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Labik Kamal Gaurob

Mohammed Mobarak Hossain, Anup Kumar Mandal and Jalal Ahmed. Shikor has released their first album 'Soul of Bengal' this year.

Gaurob has performed in three international music festivals this year along with the musicians of 'Shikor Bangladesh All Star'. Recently, he has performed in WOMAD (World of Music, Arts and Dance) festival 2015. "It was an exclusive opportunity to perform in the largest world music festival. That was the first time Bangladesh was represented in front an international mainstream audience", says Gaurob. He has also performed in 'Songlines Encounter Festival-2015' in the United Kingdom.

Last week, in Dhaka International Folk Fest 2015, Gaurob has entranced the gallery with his wonderful performance. He performed with his band 'Ajob' and also with one of the greatest Baul singer ever, Paban Das Baul. "I got the contiguity of him before, but for the folk fest-2015, we have practiced for two-three days and then performed on stage. It is really delightful to perform with the legend of folk music on stage", says Gaurob.

When asked about the significance of the Dhaka International Folk Fest 2015, Gaurob welcomed the initiatives of the authorities. According to him, Bangladesh should observe such festivals every year so that the people of Bangladesh will get in touch with our own culture. But he also mentioned some issues of mismanagement. He claims that the time management system was not satisfactory, as he and his band were supposed to perform for one hour, where they got only eighteen minutes on stage. Apart from these, to him, the overall environment was good.

This year, Gaurob is working on his personal projects and also working in numerous festivals and stage shows. If everything goes well, next year, his fans will be able to enjoy his upcoming projects.