

To preserve the memory of Artist Aminul Islam, his family introduced the Aminul Islam Young Artist Award in 2013. For their contributions to art, two young artists are selected for the awards on a biennial basis. Artist Aminul Islam (1931-2011) is amongst the first generation artists and a leading member

A BEAUTIFUL ARRAY OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

AMINUL ISLAM YOUNG ARTIST AWARD AND OPEN STUDIO AT BIDYAPEETH

ZAHANGIR ALOM

of the pioneering modern art movement in Bangladesh. There was a nationwide call for young artists to submit their artworks in order to choose the winners of the award by an independent jury. For the 2015 awards, 10 artists were shortlisted. An open studio has been arranged to showcase the selected works by the artists.

This year's winners were announced at the inauguration of the open studio, organised by Bengal Foundation on July 23. The award ceremony, held at Gyantapash Abdur Razzaq Bidyapeeth, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, was attended by eminent artist Mustafa Monwar, artist Dhali Al Mamoon, Ruby Islam (Aminul Islam's wife), and the chairman of Bengal Foundation, Abul Khair.

The 10 shortlisted artists – Ali Asgar, Palash Baran Biswas, Palash Bhattacharjee, Rafiqul Islam Shuvo, Razib Datta, Reetu Sattar, Rupam Roy, Salma Abedin Prithi, Samsul Alam Helal and Zihan Karim -- have dealt with a vast range of mediums like video, performance, photography, printmaking, drawing, sculpture and installation.

The winners of the Aminul Islam Young Artist Award 2015 are Rafiqul Islam Shuvo and Razib Datta.

Rafiqul Islam Shuvo treads on several new avenues of artistic expression, including, sculptural installations, painting, video and photography. His artworks mainly focus on the ontological influence of time, responsible for the evolution of human behaviour in a geographical periphery. Unexpected pauses, sudden cuts, long silences, juxtaposed editing, and a tendency of repetition create a certain cinematic style in Shuvo's videos.

Incorporating drawing, text and digital art, Razib Datta deconstructs the traditional language of art and cinema in

his works. With an attempt of creating “non-sense”, Razib often collects photographs, newspapers and film stills to conceptualise his work. In his series of small drawings, an absurdist character named Ramiz travels around the city with an eye to understanding contemporary events.

Ali Asgar explores the issues of gender identity, masculinity, and the socio-cultural concerns that relate to gender practices of men in a hetero-normative society. Exploring different contemporary media for years, Ali took performance as his forte. He does not view art as a catalyst for the transformation of society; rather, he sees art as a reflection of a society.

Palas Baran Biswas's lithographs are the reflections of the human condition inside and outside of socio-political structures. He explores the complexities of social values. His work often responds to contemporary issues and traces the

struggle of social relationships. Palash Bhattacharjee's praxis traverses an array of experimental art ranging from performance, installation, to video. He loves to carry out aesthetic experimentations derived from his personal experiences.

Using theatre, performance, video, text and object, Reetu Sattar's works navigate through memory, loss and resilience. Since 2010, she has been exploring performance as her artistic expression. Reetu's background in theatre led her to engage in performance art and elucidate personal emotions.

Rupam Roy's enigmatic sculptures are the experimentations of the relationship between sound and object. He analyses sources of sounds and draws lines in spontaneous gestures, in response to a sound piece – with the preference of losing control in the process.

| ACHIEVEMENT |



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



PHOTO: COURTESY

Salma Abedin Prithi's works are monologues of ordinary people about their relationships in front of the camera. The texts and letters on prints become an integral part of her photographs. Prithi is particularly interested in rituals and women's iconography. Her recent works focus on women in domestic roles, where she confronted her own upbringing and questioned her fears and desires.

Samsul Alam Helal tells stories of various people. Exploring their identities, dreams and longings through his photography, Helal often creates dramatic moods through vibrant colours. As opposed to mere fiction, his work represents reality in an alternate space.

Audio-visual artist Zihan Karim explores the subtleties of time, space, and societal issues through the syntax of video, installation, sound and painting. His work intends to create a new dialogue between the virtual and reality.

The exhibition ends today.

MAD GENIUS

AYUB BACHCHU

born 16 August 1962

Ayub Bachchu is a singer, a lyricist, a composer and also the founder of the country's one of the leading bands, the LRB. He loves to experiment with his creative abilities and his songs like *Ghum Bhanga Shohore*, *Shei Tumi*, *Lokjon kome gecche* are bound to get the crowd rocking. Born in Chittagong, he started his music career there with the band Feelings in 1978. From 1980 to 1990, he was a member of Souls as lead guitarist and finally in 1991, he formed his own band, LRB. LRB released its first album as a double album, which contained hard rock songs like "Madhobi" "Hoker" "Sesh Cithi keno amon Cithi hoy" "Happy" and "Dhakar Sondha".

“ My son and I playing together on the same platform is the most significant achievement, I believe. For a father that was one of the biggest goose bump moments of my life.

I am mostly a self- taught guitarist, I chose my own learning path

Since music is my profession. I'm not doing music for it's a fashionable thing to do. This is my only living. So maybe I had to sing some songs that I didn't like at all. I sometimes regret it and think that I could've avoided doing those 4-5 songs. Other than those, all my songs are like my children- those that I composed, LRB songs, Aiyub Bachchu solo album songs, these are my favourite songs- all of them.

This song(shei tumi) has a background that I'll never reveal; ever... It is everyone's story, not only mine. Listeners from both East and West Bengal- all love this song. They have the lyrics memorised and they sing it for their partners, their loved ones. Maybe I sang this for someone I loved. Let the rest of the story remain a secret.

All the quotes are taken from Ayub Bachchu's previously taken interview with The Daily Star.

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TALE OF A RICKSHAW PULLER'S SON!

The other day I was going to my office in Motijheel by a rickshaw. As I was having a conversation with the elderly rickshaw puller I was told that one of his sons got chance in Notre Dame College this year. He was proud of his son's success. I congratulated him for his son's outstanding achievement. He then kept on telling me that he was from remote village of Jamalpur District and led a very tough life with the little money that he earned from peddling rickshaw. His son was a meritorious student and got A+ from the remote village school. The teachers of the school were proud of his achievement. He replied in a convincing voice that his son got scholarships from the school he went to and a number of banks. He also added that as a father he would like to keep contributing from his daily income for his son's education and other expenses. Lastly he told me that he wished his son would get a chance to study in Dhaka University. I was really happy thinking that he did not compromise with his son's education. *Md Zonaeed Emran*
The Farmers bank Limited



PHOTO: STAR ARCHIVE

AN EXCEPTIONAL CASE

Finding an apartment for young bachelors in Dhaka is as tough as getting a top-level job in any multinational company without experience. In most cases, these people are in the desperate need of finding a home as they live away from their families for study purposes or to earn their livelihoods. Few months ago, my relatives and I were looking for an apartment in Mirpur. While talking to the owner over the phone, I was asked a couple of times whether I live with my family (wife and children) or not. As the house owner was reluctant to rent his place to bachelors, we decided to move on and find some other place.

Suddenly, we noticed a 'to-let' advertisement and thought of trying our luck one more time. We knocked on the door and an old man opened it. As we told him that we were looking for a home, like other house owners, he asked us whether we had family or not. Unlike other house owners, he totally understood our situation. Infact he told us that, his son, living in Japan, asked him to rent apartments to unmarried people. Otherwise, they would fall in trouble. What surprised us even more was when he said, "You people are students. So you don't need to pay anything in advance. Just confirm whether you will stay here or not." Without any hesitation, we confirmed and came back happily. I wish people changed their biased opinion towards bachelors and come out of the misconception about us. *Ashim Kumar Paul*
Sirajganj