

**SPOTLIGHT**

Art supply in Dhaka

Whether we consider ourselves connoisseurs or not, it goes without saying that our lives are surrounded with art. From the paintings or décor items that hang on our living room walls, to the colour of the walls themselves, art is everywhere.

But what is art without art supplies? How do you create what you have imagined, without a simple paper and pencil? How do you make it look beautiful without filling it with colours? Van Gogh would not be Van Gogh without his easel and brush!

NEW MARKET

New market is without a doubt the most famous haunt for any artist or art student.



They have the maximum variety of art supply and stock everything from the easel to brush to art paper in different grades and weights and fine point drawing pens. You name it they have it.

They offer products ranging from the most expensive to the most affordable, thus suiting everyone's pockets.

Modern Stationary and Pubali Stationary are the two shops in New Market which are reputed for their wide range of art material and equipment. Jannatul Ferdous Moumeeta, a Bachelor of Fine Arts, 4th year student, in the Department of Drawing and Painting at Jahangirnagar University, frequents New Market to replenish her art supplies. "New Market is the best place to go to, to buy art material. That is where I buy all the material I need for my university" she said.

DHANMONDI

A relatively unknown art shop, KHS International is situated at House 19, Road 16 (new) or 27 (old), Dhanmondi. This shop does not even have a sign board with its name on it. Hidden behind a grey gate in a private residence, one literally has to knock and ask the security guard if there is indeed an art shop inside.

Mohammad Mohiuddin, the shop manager said, "There is no sign board outside because we do not want to commercialise the shop. This shop exists because of the owner's passion for art and is known to only a small community of artists and students."

Their clientele, however, has increased over the years because news of its existence has spread by word of mouth and because of the superior quality of their products.

Umme Salma Shabbir, an Advance Level student, who has taken Art as one of her subjects, was introduced to KHS International Art shop by her Art tutor. She says, "I get 90 percent of my art supplies from KHS International since its location is

very convenient for me; my art classes are in Dhanmondi itself. Moreover, their art material is top notch so I do not feel the need to go elsewhere."

SHAHBAGH

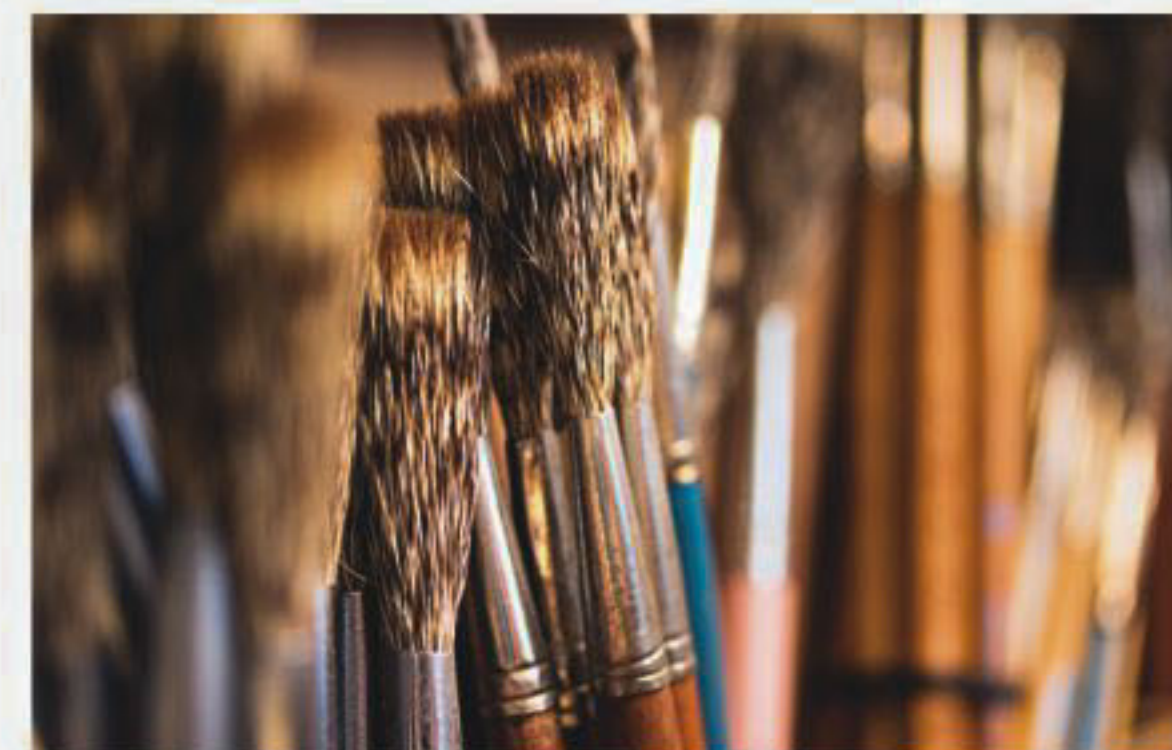
Another very popular place to get good quality and good variety of art supply is Grasshopper, a shop on the 3rd level of Aziz Super Market in Shahbagh. Located close to the university area, this shop is also a regular haunt for art students and artists. It is well stocked with all the latest art materials and equipment.

There was once a time when artists used to create their own art materials. Pablo Picasso is known to have used house paint for his art work. Luckily, modern artists have a wide variety of art supplies readily available and these supplies play a crucial role in what the final product looks like.

Merely changing the supplies of an art work can give it a different look. So all you art buffs go forth, buy and experiment. Happy shopping!

By Samina Hossain

Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed

**FYI**

Learning art

Art helps people appreciate and understand different cultures and social values of our diverse society. And for children, the importance is even greater.

Dhaka is self-equipped with plentiful art schools to choose from for your child. The schools offer teaching various forms of art ranging from sketch, oil painting to glass painting.

CUBIC ART SCHOOL

With the vision to enhance creativity and imagination in the students, Cubic Art School was established in 2003. Their objective is to develop interest in art practice among youngsters and adults through different exhibitions, workshop and festivals.

For the last few years, Cubic Art School has been organising a Kite Festival in an attempt to encourage the tradition of kite flying among the youngsters.

(You can join them at any of their branches at Gulshan-1, Gulshan-2, Niketan or Banani. For details, visit cubicartschool.com/about.html)

GREEN ART SCHOOL

Founded by Ferdows Ara Rasul (Preitty) and Mintu Dey, Green Art School offers the opportunity, for both children and adults, to learn to draw and paint. Annual parties and exhibitions are held to showcase the works done by their pupils. Drawing, painting, crafts making and glass painting are all offered for the students.

(For more information, visit their Facebook page: [Facebook.com/GreenArtSchool.bd](https://www.facebook.com/GreenArtSchool.bd))

PADDO ART SCHOOL

Paddo Art School is a fine art training center established in 1988 that helps children to explore the versatile world of creativity under the supervision of proficient artists.

(Join them at House # 42, Road # 11, Sector # 4, Uttara)

AKANTIS

If you are an adult and are currently looking forward to an art school catering to your needs, Akantis is probably where you should head out to.

Akantis is an artist forum for upcoming artists in Bangladesh that was established with the belief that this practice would enhance a new era of Bangladeshi Art combining concept art, character design, comic book art and animation to create extraordinary visuals. Stationed in Dhanmondi, their mission is to explore our culture and redefine visual literacy among the youths of Bangladesh.

Anyone with a knack for art or cartoon drawing is welcome to join them at: [facebook.com/AKANTISchool](https://www.facebook.com/AKANTISchool)

GRAPHIC ARTS INSTITUTE

Established in 1967, Graphic Arts Institute is the only Government Printing and Design Institute in Bangladesh. The syllabus includes graphic designing and printing technology and provides courses over the duration of four years. For someone with a keen interest in learning graphic arts, this institute can be a great place to catch up with the latest techniques and styles.

PRIVATE TUTORS

In case you are not willing to send your child to an art school, you can arrange for private art tutors to come home and teach art with great care right in front of you. The tutors, mostly undergraduate art students, will start from the very basic and gradually follow a syllabus.

People are gradually developing a positive mindset towards art, perhaps realising that "art" as Picasso had said, "is the lie that enables us to realise the truth."

By Tahmina Begum