

# KAZI GHIYASUDDIN

## An artist extraordinaire

THE MUSIC OF NATURE

**ZAHANGIR ALOM**  
 Nature has its own melody, perceptible to a sensitive artist. The music of nature in its infinite splendour is a constant inspiration for internationally renowned artist Kazi Ghiyasuddin. He captures nature's underlying harmony of colours in his paintings.

The first Monbusho scholar from Bangladesh, he went to Japan to pursue his Ph D when he was a young teacher at the Department of Drawing and Painting of the Institute of Fine Arts (now Faculty of Fine Art), University of Dhaka. He was also an art teacher in Japan. Teaching did not have an enduring appeal for this prolific creator of art. The true professional artist, who has an illustrious career of over five decades, still works eight hours a day.

A few days ago, this correspondent saw him hard at work despite scorching heat at his vast studio in Savar, Dhaka.

Watercolour is his favourite media. He is the creator of many fascinating oils. At present, the contemporary master is busy completing several life-sized oils for his upcoming show to be held next month at the famous Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery.

"Art is not a business. Why do I paint? I paint as I feel an inner urge. If you cannot feel nature and hold its magnanimous beauty, you can never become an artist. Present day artists have deviated from this spirit. When I was a first year (Honours) student, I would frequently go for outdoor works with artist Monirul Islam, Mahbub and our teachers Rafiqun Nabi and Mustafa Monwar," said Kazi Ghiyasuddin.

"Merely copying nature is not creation. I am inspired by the words of Paul Klee, who said that somebody will be a good painter, not creator. Turner's realistic watercolours are fabulous, but, I am moved by the abstract works of Paul Klee. Artist Monirul Islam has a vast volume of watercolour. An exhibition of his works would reveal the secret of watercolour and young artists would benefit," he added.

Watercolour evokes the feelings of poetry while oil delineates the magnanim-

ity of an epic or a vast novel. Kazi Ghiyasuddin adeptly works in both media. He would attach excerpts from the poems of Tagore, Jibanananda Das and others as calligraphy in his works. He creates constructive composition observing the beauty of landscapes and forms of nature. His watercolours simultaneously evoke a blend of Eastern and Western taste. He takes forms from nature, but, creates his own. What is distinctive in his work is the technique and treatment of colour. At present he is deconstructing forms and spreading minimal colours on canvas for his fifth art



publication. Apart from realistic works, his art contains geometric forms, painting within painting, subtle game of light and shade, polar view of the earth, surrealism and absolute abstraction. He completes each of his watercolours in dry method, applying colour layer by layer with importantly keeping paper white to create depth. His treatment of oil colours glows like the rays of serene beauty.

"I paint for my own delight. I want to put together image after image to create an orchestra. Sometimes a cloudy sky looks up with a flash of bright sunlight. The midday

sunshine makes the woods on the riverbank look greener. At dusk that turns more violet or dark green. If these images are deemed surrealistic, then my paintings can also be said to be on the verge of surrealism," explains the master.

He has four art book publications to his credit. His maiden publication "Spirit of Bengal" is an ode to the motherland. A painstaking treatment of nature, heritage, poetry, rhythm, feminine grace, and more embellish the book. "Sound of Nature" was published by NHK Publishing, Japan which published one of the books of Tagore. The third one was also published in Japan.

The fourth book is jointly published by Bengal Foundation and Skira. Titled, "Kazi Ghiyasuddin: Contemporary Masters of Bangladesh", the book earned him international acclaim and fame. Many art connoisseurs, critics and organisations wrote him letters appreciating his works.

Rosa Maria Falvo, editor of the book, noted "Beautifully illustrated, this is the first volume in the series on contemporary artists from Bangladesh. On this rare creative journey, Kazi Ghiyasuddin draws his inspiration from nature to project his desire for harmony and peace. Producing richly textured canvases, his unique style resonates with delicate, inwardly expanding applications of paint. His early, more formal works have evolved into suggestive dream-like contemplations. As if conducting a sensory orchestra, Ghiyasuddin has melded two distinct cultures and aesthetics.

This book showcases over 200 colour plates tracing the artist's personal vision over three decades of change in Bangladesh, and will appeal to anyone interested in contemporary art in South Asia; particularly collectors, curators, academics, and artists." Kyuryudo Art-Publishing Co. Ltd. will publish his fifth book featuring his recent masterpieces. He has 100 solo exhibits to his credit. Of them, 75 were held in Japan. His works are in the collection of many art museums. Asian Art Museum has collected most of his works.



### NEWS bytes

#### Lionsgate eyeing HELLBOY reboot

The "Hellboy" reboot, that will star David Harbour as the title character, may have found a home. Lionsgate is in final negotiations to pick up the project, which is titled "Hellboy: Rise of the Blood Queen" and has Neil Marshall on board to direct, The Hollywood Reporter confirmed.

Larry Gordon and Lloyd Levin are producing, as is Mike Richardson of Dark Horse Entertainment.

"Hellboy" is a unique franchise in that so far each installment has been released by a different studio. Adapting the works of comic creator Mike Mignola, the first movie was made by Revolution Studios and released by



Sony in 2004. The sequel, "Hellboy: The Golden Army", was made by Universal and released in 2008.

Both movies were directed by Guillermo del Toro and starred Ron Perlman as a demon raised by a human professor working to fight supernatural evildoers for an organization called Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense.

Del Toro and Perlman tried to launch a third installment, but budgetary issues proved to be challenging and the producers decided to instead venture forward with a reboot.

Source: THR



**Curtains rose on Loko Natyadal's theatre festival marking its 36th anniversary at the National Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on Wednesday. Pro Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Dr. Nasreen Ahmed inaugurated the festival. On the opening day, two plays were staged: Sukumar Roy's "Obak Jolopan" and "Konjus", the famous adaptation of Moliere's "The Miser". Today's plays at the festival are "Mujib Mane Mukti", Rabindranath Tagore's "Dakghar O RothJatra" at the National Theatre Hall, and Mymensingh Geetika-based "Sonai Madhab". All the plays at the festival are directed by the troupe's leader and BSA Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky.**



**Tonight, viewers can tune into ntv at 9:05pm to watch "Mrittika O Maria'r Golpo", a single episode TV play scripted by Zahir Karim and directed by Shimanto Shajal. The main cast includes Azmeri Haque Badhon and Mehreen Islam Nisha.**

#### RADHIKA APTE'S "Phobia" getting a sequel

Radhika Apte might be just a few movies old in Bollywood, but with her stellar performances and strong screen presence, she has made her mark in the cinema industry.

Her critically acclaimed film "Phobia", that spoke about a woman who has a rare phenomenon of a disease called agoraphobia, where a person faces an extreme or irrational fear of open or public places, is said to be getting a sequel.

Since Bollywood is suddenly all about the biopics and sequels, this is a great time to venture into something like this and making a follow-up of a movie which doesn't fall under the commercial category.

Times of India reports that the makers of "Phobia" are keen on making the sequel a big budget one, casting a leading star. Apparently, the makers will touch upon the subject of Aviophobia (fear of flying) in "Phobia 2".

Since 'Phobia' had Radhika Apte playing the protagonist, the sequel reportedly will have a male lead. "I am doing 'Phobia 2', but this time it's with a male lead. The script demanded a male lead. The film was critically acclaimed and it made to the list of top ten films of 2016. So, we want to get someone who can pull off that kind of performance," Viki Rajani of production house Next Gen Films Pvt Ltd was quoted as saying.

The makers have reportedly locked in the script and the movie is said to go on floors soon. "There will supporting actors as it's on a flight and about phobia of flying," Viki said.

Source: TOI

