

Immersing in the grace of nature

"Musings in Watercolour" at Edge Gallery

ZAHANGIR ALOM

"Jolokabbo" (Musings in Watercolour) is an ongoing group painting exhibition at Edge Gallery in capital's Gulshan-2. The exhibition is showcasing select watercolours by both prominent and promising artists -- Samarjit Roy Choudhury, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Ranjit Das, Al-Akhir Sarker, Anisur Rahman, Mintu Dey, Nabaraj Roy, Nazmul Haque Bappy, Shakirun Nahar Kanon, Sharmin Akhter Lina, Shohag Parvez, Soikat Hossain, Sultan Ishtiaque and Warior Rahman Sami.

Organised by Edge, The Foundation, the show is exclusively displaying works on themes like landscapes, nature and riverine life.

Immersed in graceful colours, the artists have adeptly mastered their works on drenched paper. They have captured the beauty of untainted nature and human beings' close affinity to it. The lovely land-

scapes tell human's subtle tales of sensuousness and an ardent proximity to live on the lap of idyll. Vibrant works by the 14 watercolourists evoke the memories of the nature in its glory and diversity. The depiction of various seasons, an elusive game of light and shades and a spectrum of emotions have been composed in innovative ways and portrayed through vivid paintings of nature.

Mastering the art of watercolour painting is a complex process. Painters need not only learn how hues interact with each other both physically and chemically but they also require profound knowledge of how water carries colour pigments through the curves and fibres of canvas or paper.

An important motive behind organising the exhibition is to engage in promoting not only watercolour but upcoming talent. The majority of the 14 artists are young yet with immense potentials. They have all been trained in a number of reputed art

institutions, ranging from Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka to Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan and Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata, India to the China Academy of Art in Zhejiang Province.

Among the works exhibited are paintings by three acclaimed masters -- Ranjit Das, Hamiduzzaman Khan and Samarjit Roy Choudhury. It is hoped that by displaying works of the established painters along with the ones by the upcoming artists will enable a dialogue between the city's art connoisseurs.

Apart from the eye-soothing works inside the gallery, the art lovers may have the opportunity to enjoy the beautifully adorned garden aside the gallery, where they may sit down by the lake to with a cup of tea to enjoy their winter evenings.

The exhibition was inaugurated on November 26. Opening everyday from 10 am to 8 pm at the Bay's Edgewater Building in Gulshan 2, it will conclude on December 31.



Mustafa Zaman Abbasi turns 80 today



MD. ROKONUZZAMAN

Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, a prominent musicologist, writer and television personality of the country, turns eighty today. He was born on December 8, 1937 in Cooch Bihar of West Bengal, and today is a guardian figure of the country's folk music genre. With a unique voice he is still ruling the folk music kingdom in our country. We try to discover more about him in an interview on his birthday.

First of all, congratulations and happy birthday! How are you going to celebrate the occasion?
MZA: Thank you so much. If I am still alive on my 80th birthday, I must be grateful to the Almighty. I would start my day with morning prayers. My fans have made arrangement for a programme at Sufia Kamal Auditorium to celebrate the day. I plan to be there.

Tell us a little about your childhood.
MZA: I was born in Bolorampur village in Cooch Bihar, the village that gave birth to my ancestors including my father Abbasuddin Ahmed and my grandfather Zafar Ali Ahmed. I used to swim in the river Kajiani with my playmates. I remember the vivid pictures of the village. I studied at The Jenkins School there, at Modern School in Kolkata and at Saint Gregory School in Dhaka.

What was the making of the Mustafa Zaman Abbasi that he is today?
MZA: This is because of the influence of my father obviously. I was 18 when he died. In his death bed he advised me not to go hither and thither, rather to concentrate on the teachings of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and Kazi

Nazrul Islam. He wanted me to bear love for Allah and humanity. These are the commandments that I got from my father throughout my time with him. He worked hard to make what my siblings and I - Ferdousi Rahman and Mustafa Kamal - are today.

What are you presently up to?
MZA: I am working as a Senior Research Scholar at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) where I have established a center called "Kazi Nazrul Islam and Abbasuddin Ahmed Research and Study Center". I teach there on Abbasuddin and Nazrul with 24 classes in a semester. This is the only university as far as my knowledge goes, that introduced courses on Abbasuddin and Nazrul.

What do you do during leisure?
MZA: My leisure is filled up with music and devotion to Allah. Allah has bestowed me with a longer years than my father - who died at 60. So I am grateful to Him and show my gratitude to Him. I write books, build relationships with people around me and with my students who are of my grandchildren's age. I am translating a book on the Holy Qura'n by Sahl al-Tustari, a Persian Muslim scholar. It will take three to four years, but I hope I can complete it. I practice singing regularly with digital tanpura on my phone.

Do you have a message for your fans and followers?
MZA: What I would like to say is: We have to search for meaning in life. It is neither wealth, nor career that we should look for. Rather purity is all we should crave for throughout life. Islam is not about bullying the other religions. We Muslims should love the believers of other religions too.

THE WEEKENDER

"I love lazing around the house" ...Kona

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

With a career spanning many years, Dilshad Nahar Kona's melodious voice is well known far and wide. The singer does not shy away from versatility; from being part of a band and then embarking on a successful solo career, the artiste has also briefly dabbled in acting. In a recent interview with The Daily Star, the singer talks about her downtime, and more.

What is your ideal weekend?
Kona: My career rarely allows me a full day off, but when I do, I love lazing around the house.

What is your current favourite song?
Kona: I'd be hard-pressed to choose a favourite, but I really like "Lage Buke Lage" by Imran.

What was your favourite childhood snack?
Kona: I'm not a picky eater, but I have a soft spot for chanchur.

If you could go on a road trip right now, who would you take and where would you go?
Kona: As a singer, much of my career is spent on the road, and I have had many wonderful experiences with my fellow musicians. We listen to songs and catch up on stories on the way, and so if I could go anywhere right now, I'd want to take them with me. My favourite destination is Cox's Bazaar.

What are you currently working on?
Kona: I have been working on some mixed albums, and doing some playback singing. I recorded two songs for "Nolok", one for "Chittagong'er Chhele, Noakhali'r Meye", "Nurjahan," and "Ami Neta Hobo". Winter is also a month for stage shows, and so I am quite busy with that as well.



A lighthouse of Dhakai Cinema

50 years of Madhumita Cinema

A CORRESPONDENT

What would you do if you went to a theatre to watch your favourite movie and found all the seats had been sold out? Probably you would return home disheartened and wait for the next show. Mohammad Siraj Uddin, a young entrepreneur of old Dhaka, did something different back in 1967 when he had failed to buy a ticket for his favorite movie "Mahanagar" at Balaka Cinema. An avid movie buff, Siraj instantly vowed to set up a movie hall of his own, which is how the Modhumita Cinema came into being. Modhumita started its operation as a movie hall by screening "Cleopatra", where our now-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, then very young, was one of the early viewers of the film.

Thanks to a modern sound system called Magnetic Sound and relatively new facilities of that time, Modhumita became a cultural marvel within a short time of its inauguration. It was



an oasis of entertainment for the younger generation back in the late '60s. With three bigha of land area and a seating capacity of 1221, Madhumita is still a center for entertainment for city dwellers, especially the people of Wari and the old town. The authority has a plan for construction of a cinema complex with modern facilities, food courts and children area.

The iconic Madhumita is celebrating its Golden Jubilee (50th anniversary) this December. Iftekhar Uddin Nowshad, the managing director of the hall, was very excited to be greeted by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of its golden jubilee. A

colourful event was arranged to observe the anniversary at Madhumita premises in the presence of prominent cultural and political personalities. Tauquir Ahmed's latest movie "Haldaa" is being screened as part of the celebrations.

However, Nowshad is uncertain whether the hall will be able to survive another 50 years. The reasons are very obvious, ranging from lack of quality movies to invasion of satellite TV channels. The country's movie industry is going through a rough time and so is Madhumita. Nowshad said, pointing out that movie-goers are no longer clamoring to see movies at halls and many were compelled to shut down because they were in the red. The annual movie release list had shrunk to 30 though it was more than 100 a few decades back and the number of halls had gone down to 300 from 1200, he added.

Madhumita is being run on subsidies, causing much anxiety to the hall owner.

Saif-starrer "Kaalakaandi" promises edge-of-the-seat thrill

The trailer of "Kaalakaandi", which is a thrilling dark comedy written and directed by Akshat Verma, was released on Wednesday. Lead actor of the film, Saif Ali Khan had earlier described the project as "very intelligent that is made on a shoestring budget."

Judging by the trailer, the film promises to be a roller-coaster ride, according to Times of India. The almost two-and-half-minute long trailer makes for an intriguing watch. The trailer opens with Saif's character having a serious discussion with his doctor who then reveals to him that he is suffering from stomach cancer. What follows is a series of fortunate/unfortunate events that forms the crux of the film.

In an exclusive interaction with TOI, Shenaz Treasury had spilled the beans on

her character in the film. "I play Ayesha, a strong, bold woman of the world who knows what she wants. She's fun, funny and knows how to have a good time. She believes in living life to the fullest and partying till the sun comes up. She's a party animal and is the queen of Bombay's nightlife. She plays ditsy but is very smart and when s**t hits the fan, she's the one in charge."

"Kaalakaandi" also features Sobhita Dhulipala, Kunaal Roy Kapur, Akshay Oberoi and Isha Talwar in other prominent roles, alongside Vijay Raaz and Deepak Dobriyal. The film is all set to release on January 12, 2018.



Source: TOI