

#PressforProgress

As the second week of March begins, global governments, women's organisations, businesses and charities prepare to come together under the banner of International Women's Day. The 2018 campaign theme for the day is #PressforProgress, which calls for women to "press forward and progress with gender parity."

March 8 will see the annual Women's Day campaign theme kick off for the year ahead, while providing a unified direction to guide and galvanise collective action. While gender parity cannot happen overnight, this year's Women's Day calls for strong action to continue the momentum of building a better world.

This week's Star Lifestyle celebrates womanhood putting the spotlight on the beauty of the dark and dusky plus more.

To learn more, visit www.internationalwomensday.com



ART: FARIDA ZAMAN

SPECIAL FEATURE

WOMEN IN ART

the muse and the maker

Too often, women are maligned by endless criticism, spiteful looks and aggressive jabs of a dysfunctional society. At the same time, on multiple occasions, they are revered as goddesses, mother, sister, wife and a friend you can always count on.

Such is the paradox!

Others, however, argue, that this is that exact enigmatic grace and aura of a woman, which time and again has played an integral part in the field of art, as both the artist as well as the inspiration. While there is no arguing that for centuries, art has existed as one of the most significant forms of human expression, a big question mark still hangs over the amount of recognition that women receive as an artist or a muse even today.

ARTICULATING THROUGH ART

Although traditionally women have always been involved in crafts, her role as an artist (as we see it) seem to be non-existent. Yet, the time-honoured nakshi kantha, or the alpona works on household floors to celebrate auspicious occasions speak

volumes for the contribution these faceless women in our history have on modern Bangladeshi art. Farida Zaman, current Professor and Chairman, Department of

There was much negativity in society back then too, but at present, there is an unusual restlessness in most people and today's female artists are trying to represent the ongoing societal issues in their work

Drawing and Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, revealed that although the revolution of women in the field of arts and crafts began a few centuries ago, they have always had to leap over a hundred visible and invisible obstacles to make a place for themselves.

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ART: KANAK CHANPA CHAKMA

