

WHAT'S ON



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Musicality in Wood
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-
Villa de Anjuman, New DOHS
Mohakhali
Date: February 22 – March 5
Time: 5 pm – 8 pm



International Art Exhibition
Title: Celebrating Mother Language in the
Light of Art
Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: Feb 23 – Mar 9
Time: 11 am to 8 pm (Sunday-Thursday); 3 pm
to 8 pm (Friday-Saturday)



Festival of Photography
Title: Chobi Mela X
Venues: Drik – Pathshala under construction
building, Goethe Institut, Britto Arts Trust,
Alliance Française de Dhaka, Pathshala South
Asian Media Institute, Drik Gallery,
Chhayanaut Shangkirti-Bhavan
Date: Feb 28 – March 9; Time: 11 am – 8 pm
Details: <http://www.chobimela.org/>



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Soaked in Paper
Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara
Date: March 1 – 12
Time: 11 am – 7:30 pm



Film Festival
Title: 12th International Children's Film
Festival Bangladesh
Venue: Central Public Library
Date: March 2 – 8
Time: 4 pm onwards

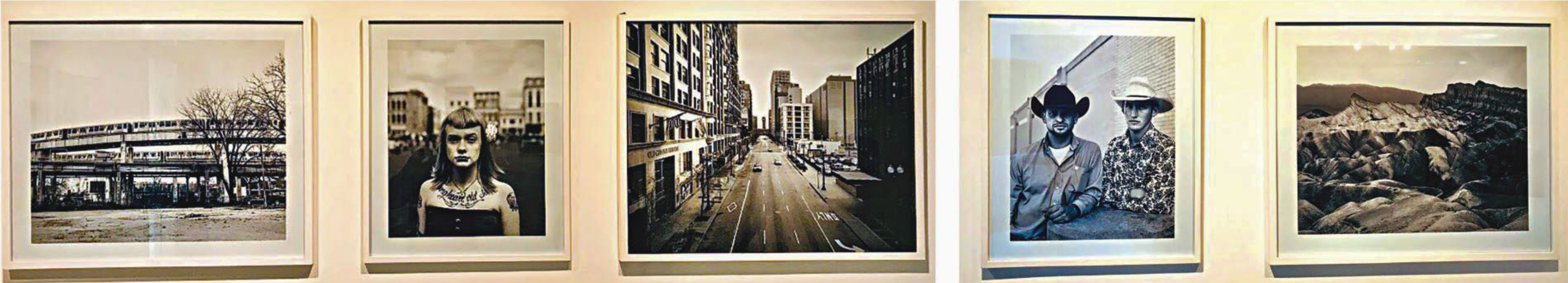


PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

CHOBIMELA X

Vanessa Winship's 'She Dances on Jackson' at AFD

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

As a part of Chobi Mela X, Vanessa Winship's solo photography exhibition, *She Dances on Jackson*, is currently taking place at Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD). The series features landscapes of rural and urban American cities and suburbs and portraits of their inhabitants, all of which are shot on film and printed in black and white.

In 2011, Winship received the Henri Cartier Bresson Award which allows an artist the funds to pursue a new photographic project. This award gave Winship the opportunity of travelling all across the USA in exploration of the "fabled American Dream", which led to the creation of this series.

The images are striking in their plainness as well as the skills of the

photographer. The subjects of the portraits meet the viewer's glance with a blank look in their eyes, thoughtless and emotionless yet visibly, deeply rooted to their surroundings. Similarly, the images of the cities, buildings and fields of grass showcase the essence of desolation. Standing in front of some of the photographs will have one believe that they are seeing the aftermath of an apocalyptic event which has frozen the world as it was. Cars look like they have never been driven, houses have never been lived in, and trains were abandoned.

Winship's work is an ironic play on the narrative of the American Dream that we have all become used to seeing and believing, especially in parts of the world like Bangladesh which could not be more removed - by distance and otherwise - from the promises and

the realities of what the American Dream claims. What makes this series brilliant is the portrayed ordinariness, the plainness in which the images have been captured. The dull and broken-down buildings and the dusty plains of America provide a window into a country that has been cherished to mean something dazzling and dream-like. Winship succeeds in breaking down all such lofty romantic ideas about the country and presents us with something beautiful in its own right, in its lack of colour and promise of a better future. Despite this, the images manage to tell the stories of the people that Winship encountered, the places that impacted her and the emotions she felt throughout her journey. The exhibition, which began on March 1, will run till March 9, from 11 am to 8 pm.



Jaya Ahsan's 'Beauty Circus' to release on Pohela Boishakh



A snippet of the teaser released for the film.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Jaya Ahsan's next project, *Beauty Circus*, created much anticipation when it was first announced. The upcoming film, directed by Mahmud Didar, stars the likes of Ferdous,

Tauquir Ahmed, Shatabdi Wadud, ABM Sumon and Humayun Sadhu among others. "This was one of my most thrilling ventures as of yet", says Jaya Ahsan, who will play the role of an entertainer in a circus. Noted actor and director also opened up about the experi-

ence. "The audience will see me in an entirely new look in *Beauty Circus*," he says. Ferdous, who also plays a pivotal role in the film, told *The Daily Star* that he had to reinvent himself for the upcoming film, which releases on Pohela Boishakh.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Indian photographer and photojournalist Raghu Rai at a talk about the purpose of photography that captures the precious time of history. The discussion took place on the third day of Chobi Mela X at Goethe-Institut Bangladesh.



A seven-day theatre festival commemorating the 158th birth anniversary of celebrated writer and historian Akshay Kumar Maitreya commenced on March 1. The festival was inaugurated by noted Indian classical vocalist, Amaresh Roy Chowdhury, Mayor of Rajshahi, AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, 1952 Language Movement veteran, Abul Hossain, along with many theatre artistes.

PHOTO: STAR



Cosmos Art Camp 2019 concludes in Chaottogram

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Gallery Cosmos organised a four-day art camp that concluded yesterday in Chaottogram's Finlay Hills, where 12 of the country's eminent artists participated and produced stellar artworks away

from urban life. The art camp was inaugurated on February 28 as part of Gallery Cosmos' continuous endeavours in elevating Bangladeshi art through organising such events across the country. Cosmos plans on holding more art camps both domesti-

cally and internationally in the days ahead. Hosted at the residence of art enthusiast and entrepreneur M Tariqul Islam, the participating artists at the art camp included eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi, Abul Barq Alvi, Alakesh Ghosh, Mohammad Eunus, Shishir

Bhattacharjee, Nisar Hossain, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Sheikh Afzal Hossain, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Dilara Begum Jolly, Bipasha Hayat and Bishwajit Goswami. The outcomes of the art camp will soon be exhibited at Gallery Cosmos in Dhaka.