

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Us Women II
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: Mar 5 - 14
 Time: 9:30 am - 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 Shangskriti-Rhavan
 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: KAZI SALAUDDIN RAZU

Al Mahmud's Nagorik Shok Sabha observed

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Kabi Al Mahmud Parishad organised 'Nagorik Shok Sabha' yesterday, in memory of the late poet Al Mahmud, at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum (BNM). The speakers expressed their regret for not bestowing the deceased poet with precise state honour, although he was a freedom fighter. They said that the misconceptions revolving around Al Mahmud will wither away someday, and he will live on as a great poet in the hearts of people.

National Professor Anisuzzaman graced the event as the chief guest, while former Director General of Bangla Academy, Professor Dr Mahmud Shah Qureshi, presided over the programme.

closely observed nature and humans and masterfully inserted their connotations into his poetry," said Asad Chowdhury.

Poet Hasan Hafiz, Poet Abdul Hye Shikdar, Poet Shaheen Reza and others spoke about Al Mahmud. Elocutionists Nasim Ahmed and Seema Islam recited Al Mahmud's poems *Ami Ar Ashbona Bole* and *Nimokhin Noishobder Khoje* respectively. Poet Hasan Hafiz dedicated one of his poems, *Pranpakhi Urey Gelo* to Al Mahmud, and recited it at the event.

Al Mahmud, one of the most iconic poets in Bengali literature, passed away on February 15, 2019. His masterful poetry takes us to a wonderful realm of imagery. Avid readers of poetry have watched his magic over time, and were

'Her Take: Rethinking Masculinity' at Chobi Mela X

'Her Take: Rethinking Masculinity' is a seven-part exhibition, by seven female photographers of a photo agency called VII. Armenian photojournalist, Anush Babajanyan, and a member of VII, exhibited the series of photographs at Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, on the fifth day of Chobi Mela X.

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

In this project, each photographer narrates their take on masculinity through visual representation. By exploring masculinity historically and culturally, they try to reframe and challenge the concept of it.

The first part of the series is called 'Outside the Binary' by Linda Bournane Engelberth, where she explored the world of people that identify themselves as non-binary. "For me, being non-binary is more of an internal thing. One day, I feel stereotypically masculine, and next day I am more feminine. Sometimes I feel I am neither," says one of the subjects of her

photographs.

The second part, titled 'The Secret Garden of Lily La Palma', showcased the work of Maggie Steber, who photographed men around the world with flowers. Growing up without a father figure, or any male influence, Maggie always found men mysterious. Hence, 'The Secret Garden of Lily La Palma' is her effort to unfold the male mystique. The third part of the series included the works of documentary photographer Sara Terry. Her project, 'Rethinking the Male Gaze', is a response to the contemporary conversation about gender, power and representation. Engaging as a photographer, Sara recreated some of the

famous paintings of nude women from art history, drawn by men.

Other featured photographers of the series included Nichole Sobeci, Jessica Dimmock, Ilvy Nijokiktjen and the speaker of the session, Anush Babajanyan herself. Few of their projects titled, 'Afri Man' and 'Brick' challenged the notion of masculinity in African community and exhibited six portraits of senior transgender women. In the end, few portraits of Anush Babajanyan were shown, where she dressed herself in the clothes of men who left a mark in her life. "To observe and understand the men I have gotten to know, I dressed into their outfits," said Anush.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Convener of Al Mahmud Parishad and renowned Poet Asad Chowdhury delivered the welcome address at the event. Eminent singer Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, former chief justice Abdur Rouf, Poet Al Mujahidi, BNP standing committee member Dr Abdul Moin Khan were among others who attended the event as special guests.

"Al Mahmud has attributed an idiosyncratic quality to Bangla language. He is easily recognised for his works, as he

spellbound.

Lok Lokantor, Kaler Kolos, Sonali Kabin, Mayabi Porda Duley Otho, Adristabadider Rannabanna, Bokhtiarer Ghora, Arabya Rojonir Rajhas and Doel o Doyita are some of his remarkable poetic works. However, the book which has been accepted by critics and connoisseurs as a masterpiece is *Sonali Kabin*. Al Mahmud entered into the field of poetry following the styles of Jasimuddin and Jibananda Das.



LUKE PERRY passes away

PHOTO: REUTERS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Actor Luke Perry, who rose to stardom on the teen-oriented 1990s American television show, *Beverly Hills 90210* and then aged into a fatherly role on comic-based *Riverdale*, passed away at the age of 52. As per reports, Perry was rushed to a Los Angeles hospital after suffering a stroke at his home. *Riverdale* producers in a statement called Perry an "incredibly caring, consummate professional." Molly Ringwald, one of his co-stars on the show, said on Twitter, "My heart is

broken." Perry also was in the 1992 movie *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* that preceded the TV series of that name and during his *90210* run portrayed real-life rodeo star Lane Frost in *8 Seconds*. He learned to ride bulls and did many of his own stunts in the film. Perry's other TV credits included *Windfall*, a 2006 series about a group of friends who win a big lottery jackpot; two seasons of *Jeremiah*, a post-apocalyptic drama; and a season on *Oz*, a prison drama on which he played a preacher convicted of embezzlement.

Halide Salam's 'Drawings and Works on Paper' at Gallery Twenty One

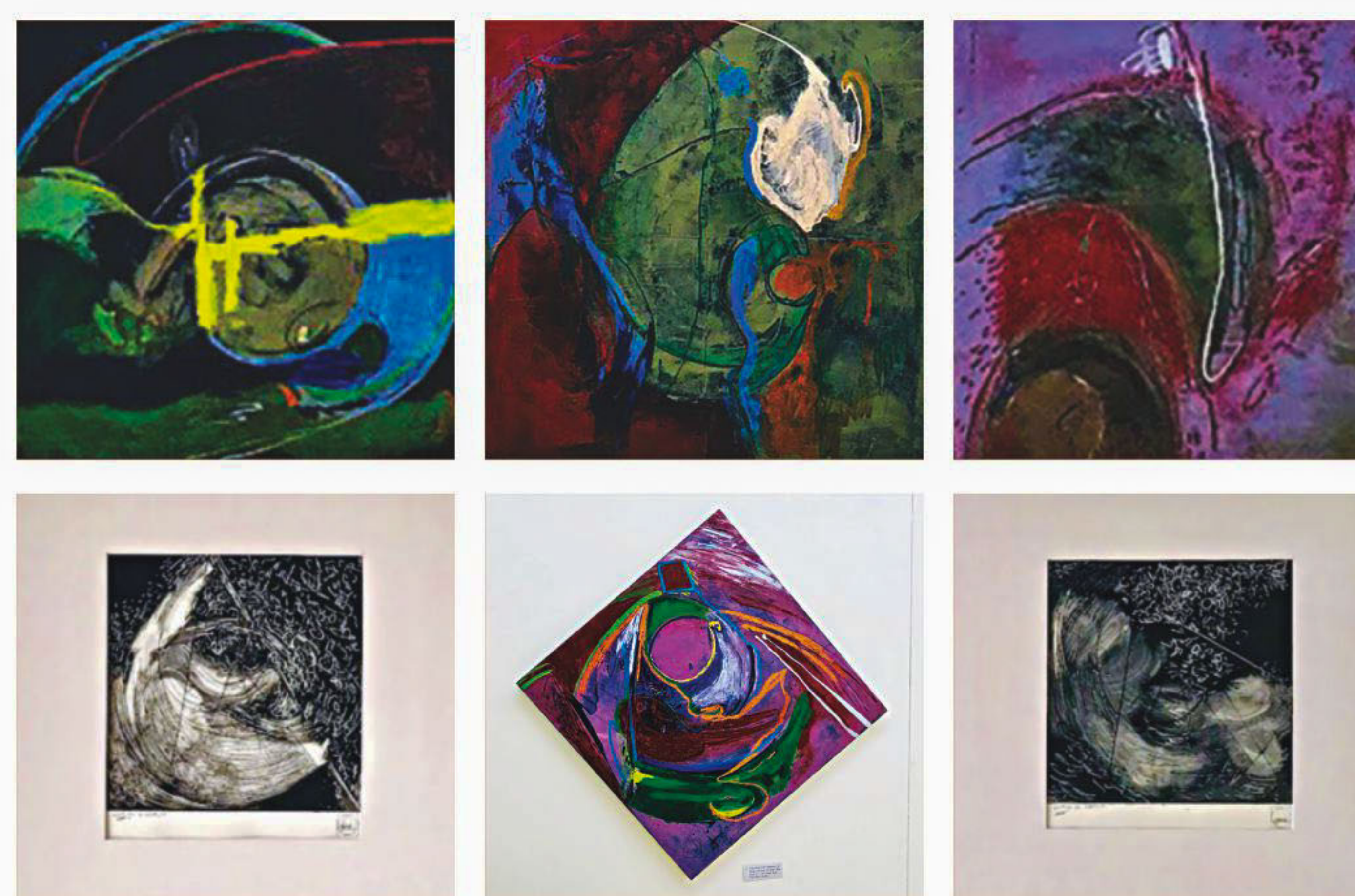


PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Gallery Twenty One in Dhanmondi has organised a solo exhibition, *Drawings and Works on Paper* by artist Halide Salam. Professor Dhali Al Mamoon, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Chittagong, and art critic, Moinuddin Khaled, jointly inaugurated the exhibition on March 1.

Halide Salam came to the USA from a war torn country, because her parents feared for her life; as well as the lives of her brothers who were sent to the United Kingdom. However, her passion for painting was born from a very personal connection she made with Vincent Van Gogh in Paris, a connection of the spirit.

She went on to earn a Master of Art in Painting and Drawing from New Mexico High-lands University (Las Vegas, NM) and a PhD in Fine Arts from Texas Tech

University (Lubbock, TX). Halide also completed post-graduate work in Sacred Geometry and Sacred Art Traditions under Dr Keith Critchlow (Professor at the Royal College of Art in London), as well as at the Prince of Wales' Institute of Architecture (London, England) from 1994 to 1996.

Her decision to become an instructor of art and teach painting was at the request of her mentor and professor, Dr Reid Hastie.

As a full-time professor in Radford University's Art department, Halide is responsible for teaching all levels of painting, ensuring that her students gain new skills and thorough knowledge of the subject matter. She teaches her students historical and contemporary art practice, theories, criticism, and aesthetics. She is also committed to collaborative and cross-disciplinary teaching activities, most

recently creating an international course with the Criminal Justice department.

Along with her duties as a painting instructor, Halide advises and mentors graduate students in the development and completion of their master thesis. She also contributes to the university through curriculum development, assessment and institution-wide advancement.

She was nominated for the 2008 Best Nonfiction National Award for her book, *Between 2 Spaces: Reflections on the Spiritual in Art*. She has exhibited and lectured in numerous museums and galleries nationally and internationally and received a number of art awards and fellowships.

Drawings and Works on Paper will remain open till March 10, daily from 12 noon to 8 pm.

Martin Anthony Bradley at DU today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Renowned English litterateur, art critic and curator, Martin Anthony Bradley is a man of many talents. He is also the founder and editor of the Asian arts and culture e-magazine, *The Blue Lotus*. He has a keen interest in graphic designing and travels the world to promote talks on arts and culture.

Martin is scheduled to hold a dialogue today at Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), popularly known as Charukala, of University of Dhaka (DU). His topic of discussion will mainly focus on the Nanyang style of art, which is popular to the regions of Malaysia, Singapore and China.

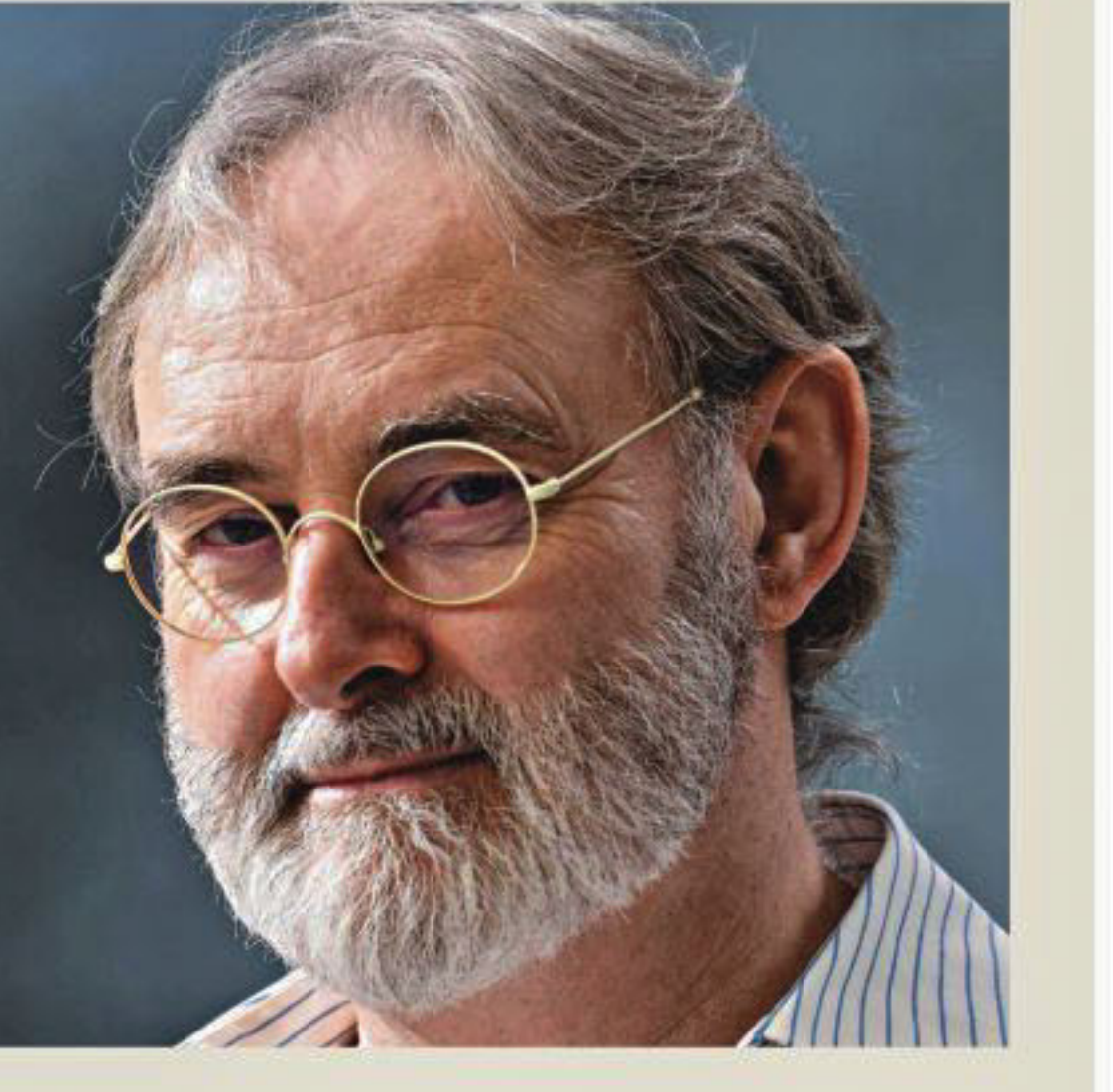


PHOTO: COLLECTED