

#EVENTS

# 5 art melas in Dhaka you can't miss out on

Dhaka is a city with a vibrant and dynamic art culture featuring many notable artists, exhibitions, and art spaces. All year round, many art melas celebrate the thriving art scene and we will list 5 of the best ones you simply can't afford to miss! Whether you are a seasoned art connoisseur or a newcomer to the world of art, these melas are definitely going to be a great way to explore.

## Dhaka Art Summit

One of the most hyped events on the Bangladeshi calendar is held at Shilpakala Academy around the first week of February and has been around since 2012. It is the go-to event for artists and enthusiasts alike. Initially, they only promoted local artists but as the event grew, so did the candidate



pool. Nowadays, it hosts many international artists and their work too. The event only takes place once every two years, so it's even more important that you don't miss it the next time!



## Berger Young Painters Art Competition

This is a bit of an oddball choice but it certainly has its merits. Berger organises an annual painting competition for young artists and the winners get some prize money. Does not sound too good right? Well, when you consider the fact that it is held in an open space, and you can go see hundreds of top-notch arts, meet some big names in the art ecosphere, and have a good time; it makes for a sweet deal. The main event is usually around the first few days of December and the venues are always changing so keep an eye out and make a day out of it!

## Zainul Utshab

Zainul Abedin, often regarded as the father of modern art, is synonymous with art in Dhaka. He has inspired scores of people to follow their artistic passions. On 29 December, the day of his birth, Zainul Utshab takes place at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. It features artworks by teachers and students of the Faculty of Fine Arts and other notable artists.

## Charukala Art Exhibition

If you're searching for a more relaxed and communal scene, then this choice is perfect for you. Every year, Shilpakala Academy and Charukala organise an annual art exhibition

featuring works from the students at Charukala. Students from all departments participate and present their work. The atmosphere is very friendly and inviting too. The event usually takes place during the first week of May and runs through most of June, so you still might have time to catch it while it's active this year.

## Pahela Baishakh Art Exhibition

The beginning of the Bengali calendar is always a huge thing not only in Dhaka but all around the country. Besides the Mangal Shobhajatra and Ramna Batamul cultural events, there's an art mela that Shilpakala Academy holds celebrating Pahela Baishakh with artworks inspired by the occasion. They feature both notable and upcoming artists and present their work in the exhibition. The



event takes place in the National Art Gallery from 14-18 April every year.

By Abdul Warith Khan  
Photo: Collected

# 5 art galleries you can visit in Dhaka

If you want to indulge yourself in the rich and vibrant art culture of Dhaka, look no further. Here are 5 of the hottest and most happening art places in town that are sure to please your creative side. From cutting-edge contemporary art to traditional masterpieces, these spaces boast a unique flavour that is sure to leave you captivated. So, join us in this enchanting journey through the heart of Dhaka's art culture.

## Gallery Chittrak

Gallery Chittrak, located in Dhanmondi, is a contemporary art gallery founded in 2000 by Md Muniruzzaman. The gallery features a wide range of art forms including paintings, sculptures, photography, and video art. It features notable artists from



Bangladesh, as well as abroad. It's known for its commitment to promoting art education and cultural exchange. They also have rotating themes to keep things fresh for visitors. If you like traditional and folk art, this is the place to go.



## Edge Gallery

Edge Gallery is an art gallery located in Gulshan. It was founded recently in 2016 and showcases a wide range of contemporary art, including paintings, photos, and modern sculptures. They mainly focus on promoting international art forms and bringing them to Bangladesh to introduce new and innovative artistic values here. They have featured a lot of foreign and local artists and their gallery spaces are very sleek and minimal to highlight the amazing art pieces.

## Gallery Cosmos

Gallery Cosmos is a contemporary art

space with two locations in Mohakhali and Siddheswari. They have been active since 2011 and have featured a wide range of art forms since. They always feature new and upcoming artists as well as showcase notable ones. But what sets them apart is their focus on promoting social and environmental issues which they express through art. They always have workshops and exhibitions happening all year round, so it's never a boring day at Gallery Cosmos!

## Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts

This majestic art space was launched in 2000 in Dhanmondi and is the premier art gallery in Bangladesh. As such, it is a must-

visit for art enthusiasts. The place exudes tranquillity and boasts art pieces from local and international artists. The art pieces are varying in size and some of them take up entire sections! The combination of natural lighting and an enormous space really brings you to a whole other world of artistic amazement.

## Studio 6/6

One of the most talked-about art community spaces, Studio 6/6 is located in Mohammadpur and founded in 2015 by the lovely couple Najib Tareque and Farhana Afroz Bappy. It's a family-run studio and also a sort of artist's hub where they can freely express their creativity and push the boundaries of contemporary art. You are not only going to see some



amazing artwork but also be a part of the community which really gives a homey vibe.

By Abdul Warith Khan  
Photo: Collected