



2001

KAZI SALAHUDDIN AHMED

**A Brush with Reality
Solo Painting Exhibition**

3 to 16 August

2 0 0 1

La Galerie

Alliance Francaise
Dhaka, Bangladesh

13 to 30 September

2 0 0 1

Seas Art Gallery

Adelaide, Australia

Reality, Reflections and the Avenues to Expression

Kazi Salahuddin, a self-taught and a prolific artist, has always been in intimate terms with his surroundings. The spectacles that the dilapidated tenements and the crumbling structures of Old Dhaka present, among which he lives and works, are observed with a keen eye and translated into pictorial dictions. The world that Salahuddin treads upon is more in tune with subjective considerations where the severity and the bite of the real is sublimated to make way for the individual expression. But the residues of the real, which are his vehicle, are omnipresent in his domain and seem to speak volumes for the urban conditions unique to Dhaka.

The subjectivity of the artist's vision often invokes an elegiac mood. But his elegiac tone does not overwhelm us with pathos but certainly raise a few questions about our human conditions. Salahuddin's images do not trigger fear or alarm as the all-consuming atmospheric gloom is not there to fill one with a sense of foreboding but to accentuate the drama of the real--wreckage, debris etc. acting as stimulants--both visual and visceral. Salahuddin throws a dramatic light upon the scenes of the aftermath exposing all the scars left from the past inviting interpretations and speculations on the part of the beholder.

He acknowledges the real and reacts in a subtle way. Sense perceptions rather than intellectual probing are brought into action to discern and define his reality. As such, he never ceases to take into reckoning the visual aspects along with the psychological jolts that result from the artist's intense encounter with his subjects, the condition that also informs his style. He does not record the real but tries to allude to it by means of extreme extrusions--both mental and physical. While constructing his elements Salahuddin makes use of the gestural aspects of paintings, colours are an integral part of his idiom and they range from somber to vivid. If the end results are any cue, during execution, at some point, the realist abdicates and the romanticist takes on. His usual signature images are rooted in conflict that takes place between the two poles of vision-- the real and the imaginary. Perhaps this is what makes his images so fraught with emotional energy.

Salahuddin's relentless aggression, in last ten years or so, into the artistic domain had produced works that before seeing a steady progression of a style, strayed and branched out in various directions but were not altogether fruitless, as they took him through a good grounding in oil painting. While search for authenticity went on, it is in the mid '90s that he comfortably placed himself on a firm footing with his landscape-like works on paper employing generous paint-heavy brushworks and daubs and patches of spatula that seems suitable for his subjects that explores features of the ramshackle surroundings and disorderly expansions of the city in the old part of Dhaka. These works, done in oil, are also marked by their expansive special projection that has become his main focus lately. As his cityscapes had gradually been diversified over the years through inclusion of scenes from the city fringe-- showing vast fellow land and those almost dried out marshes that are strewn with garbage, in this exhibition the proficiency of his craft also permits him to take on a few new challenges resulting in newer pictorial solutions. His somewhat dreary themes are offset by the presents of works that appeal more to the manipulative force of space and forms. The emotive power that he exerts in his city-paintings seems to falter a little in his too far out adventures.

Had his subjects been, for him, just plain objects of contemplation it would have become articulated in a tender voice--with stress on the beauty of cadence rather than the hoarseness most of the time they reveal. He opts for the gruff, textured and also resonating tone that to a certain extent brings out the anguish and discontentment of an urbanite. But does he portend terminality of his times. Does his style admit of psychosocial or even existential explanation? To make sense of Salahuddin's body of work one may easily leave these questions unanswered. His works undoubtedly tend to appeal to the visual considerations that lead the viewers into the vicinity where psychotropic action is in effect but one can indisputably conclude that the strength and breadth of meaning of his works surpass their empirical source.

Whatever the effect of Salahuddin's resignations to differing and varied tendencies, most of the time, the references from the real world without are subjected to permutations to conform to the world within. His aesthetic considerations are linked unequivocally with references; what may be considered kitsch, as subject matters, in highbrow aesthetic, for Salahuddin they are an approximate means of expression.

Mustafa Zaman



Urbanization 2 Mixed Media 15"x41"



Urbanization-1 Mixed Media 15"x41"



Image of the city-23 Oil on Paper 21"x16"



Monsoon Memory 5 Mixed Media 41"x15"
Monsoon Memory 6 Mixed Media 41"x15"



Twilight Symphony-1 Mixed Media 14"x11"

Courtesy :





Image of the city-24 Oil on Paper 21"x16"



Image of the city-25 Oil on Paper 21"x16"



Image of the city-26 Oil on Paper 21"x16"



House of Memory-11 Oil on Paper 21"x16"



Urban Image-1 Oil on Paper 21"x16"



White Cherry Mixed Media 14"x11"

Courtesy :



A. J. CORPORATION



Festival-1 Mixed Media 14"x11"

Courtesy :



Shamsul Alamin Group



Image of the city-27 Oil on Paper 21"x16"



Monsoon Memory-7 Oil on Paper 21"x16"



Monsoon Memory-8 Oil on Paper 21"x16"



Monsoon Memory-9 Oil on Paper 21"x16"



Image of the city -20 Oil on Canvas 36"x32"



Urbanization-3 Mixed Media 15"x41"



Image of the City-18 Mixed Media 15"x41"



Image of the city-32 Oil on Paper 16"x21"



Image of the City-19 Mixed Media 41"x15"
House of Memory-13 Mixed Media 41"x15"



Festival-2 Mixed Media 14"x11"



Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed

Born: 13th September, 1963, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Education

1986 - Mss International Relations, University of Dhaka.

1985 - Bss (hons.) International Relations University of Dhaka.

Workshop

1999 - India-Bangladesh Art Camp Organized by Kolkata Nandanik, India.

1995 - Metal Workshop, Conducted by Suzanne Benton at The Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka.

1989 - Art History And Art Appreciation Course Bangladesh Shilpokala Academy, Dhaka.

AWard

2000 - 2nd Prize In Abstract and Surrealism, 25th Anniversary International Miniature Art Show. MASF, USA.

1998 - Honorable Mention Award, 65th Miniature Painters, Sculptures And Grovers Society of Washington D.C. USA.

1998 - 2nd Prize In Abstract Art and Surrealism, 1st Tone International Miniature Art Exhibition, Bangladesh.

1997 - 1st Prize In Abstract Art 12th Georgia Miniature Art Inc. USA.

1996 - 4th Prize In The 12th Annual Juried Miniature Art Exhibition. Long Island USA.

1995 - Honorable Mention Award In The 10th Georgia Miniature Art Society Inc. USA.

Solo Exhibition

2001 - Seas Art Studios And Gallery, Adelaide, Australia

La Galerie, Alliance Francaise, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

2001 - Birla Academy of Art and culture, Kolkata, India

2000 - Art Konsault, New Delhi, India.

2000 - Solo Miniature Painting Exhibition, Gallery De Alliance Francaise, Dhaka.

1999 - Gallery 21, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

1998 - Tourist Service Center, Katmandu, Nepal.

1998 - Shajahan Art Gallery, New Delhi, India.

1997 - High Commission Of Indian Cultural Center Gallery, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

1997 - Gallery De Alliance Francaise, Dhaka Bangladesh.

1995 - Zainul Gallery, Institute Of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka Bangladesh.

1994 - La Gallery Dhaka Bangladesh.

1993 - Gallery De Alliance Francaise, Dhaka Bangladesh.

1987 - T.S.C University of Dhaka Bangladesh.

Group Exhibition

- 2001- 1st Young Artists Exhibition of Japan-Bangladesh.
- 2001- 4th International Exhibition of Miniture And Small Pictures, SAMAP, France.
- 2001- Paper Mill Playhouse International Miniture Art Exhibition. Nj. USA.
- 2001- 14th National Art Exhibition of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Bangladesh.
- 2001- 1st Biennale Art Exhibition, Bangladesh Charushipi Sangsad national Museum, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 2000 - Contemporary Art from Bangladesh, Exhibition in China.
- 2000 -The sixth International Biennial of Miniature Art, Yugoslavia.
- 2000 - Third International Exhibition of Miniture And Small Pictures, SAMAP, France.
- 2000 - Paper Mill Playhouse International Miniture Art Exhibition. Nj. USA.
- 2000 - 25th Anniversary International Miniture Art Show, MASF, USA.
- 1999 - 9th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1999 - 17th Annual Juried Miniature Art Exhibition, Long Island, USA.
- 1999 - The Art of The Miniature Vi, The Snow Geoses Gallery, U.S.A.
- 1999 - Sonar Bangladesh At Artoday, New Delhi, India
- 1998 - Remembering Vigo International Mail Art Exhibition, Argentina.
- 1998 - 13th National Art Exhibition, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1998 - 65th Miniature Painters, Sculptures And Grovers Society of Washington D.c. USA.
- 1998 - 30th painters Exhibition From Bangladesh Osaka, Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Japan.
- 1998 - 12th Miniature Painters, Sculptures And Grovers Society of Washington D.c. USA.
- 1998 - 12th Young Artists Art Exhibition Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
- 1997 - 12th Georgia Miniature Art Inc, USA.
- 1997 - 64th Miniature Painters, Sculptures And Grovers Society of Washington D.C. USA.
- 1997 - 8th Asia Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1996 - 12th Annual Juried Miniature Art Exhibition, Long Island, USA.
- 1996 - 12th National Art Exhibition, Bangladesh, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka. Bangladesh.
- 1996 - 11th Young Artists Art Exhibition, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka. Bangladesh.
- 1996 - Three Man Show, Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1995 - 10th Georgia Miniature Art Inc. USA.
- 1995 - 2nd Tone National Miniature Art Competition Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1995 - Metal Sculpture Exhibition Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, Bangladesh.
- 1994 - 11th National Art Exhibition, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1994 - 10th Young Artists Art Competition Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1993 - 1st Tone National Miniture Art Competition Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1993 - 6th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1993 - 15th Montana Miniture Art Society International Show, USA.
- 1992 - 10th National Art Exhibition, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1988 - 8th Young Artists Art Exhibition, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1987 - Victory Day Art Exhibition, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Present Position- Freelance Artist

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