

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

Cover Dusk Oil on paper 41" X 16" Back Cover Threatening sky -10 Mixed media 41" X 15" Photographer Forug Helal # Computer Graphic Munit, Graphic Scan Lid Printed Graphtone Printer

Reality, Reflections and the Avenues to Expression

Kazi Salahuddin, a self-tought and a prolific artist, has always been in intimate terms with his surroundings. The spectacles may me 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 erc 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 then 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 jotts 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 idiam 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 tack him through a good grounding in oil painting. While search for authenticity went and it is in the mid '20s that he comfartably 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 affect 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 pointings seems to falter a little in his too for 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 codence rather than the hoarseness must of the time they reveal. He opts for the gruff, textured and also resonating tone that to a certain extend brings out the anguish and discontentment of an urbanite. But does he portend terminality of his times. Does this style admit of psychosocial ar 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, mast 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"

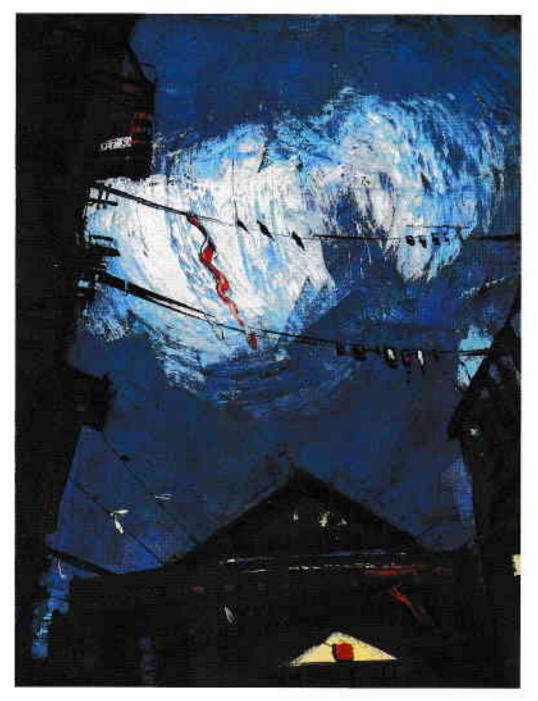
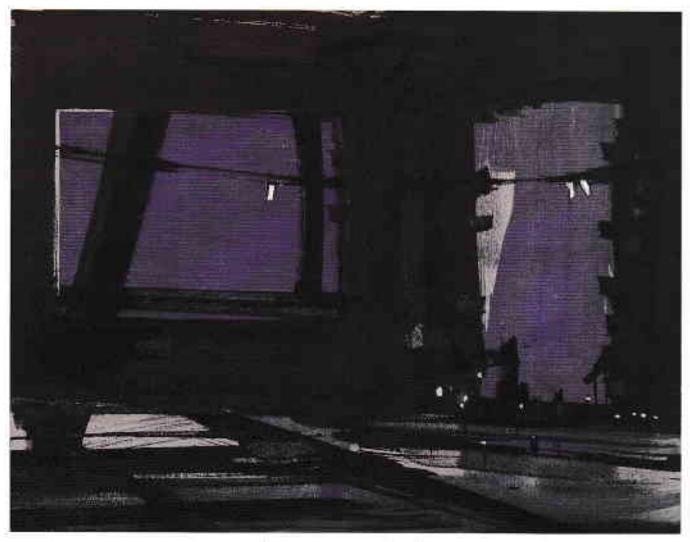


Image of the city-23 Oil on Paper 21"x16"





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



Twilight Symphony-1 Mixed Media 14"x11"





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"



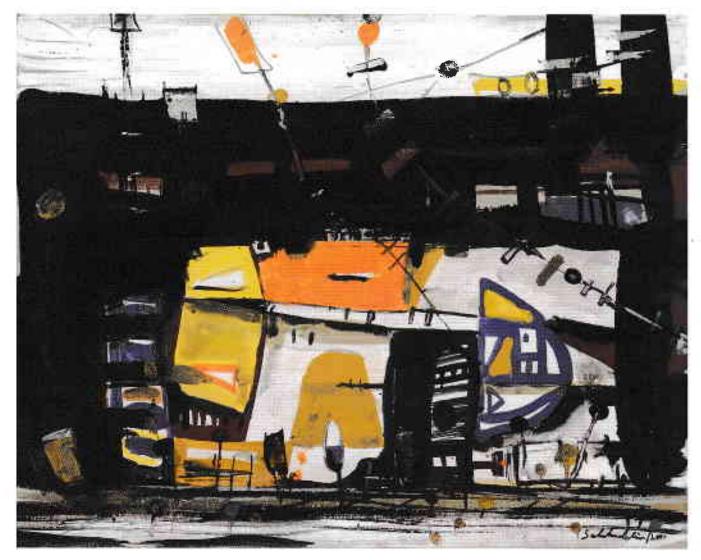
Urban Image-1 Oil on Paper 21"x16"



White Cherry Mixed Media 14"x11"

Courtesy :

A. J. CORPORATION



Festival-1 Mixed Media 14"x11"

Courtesy :





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"

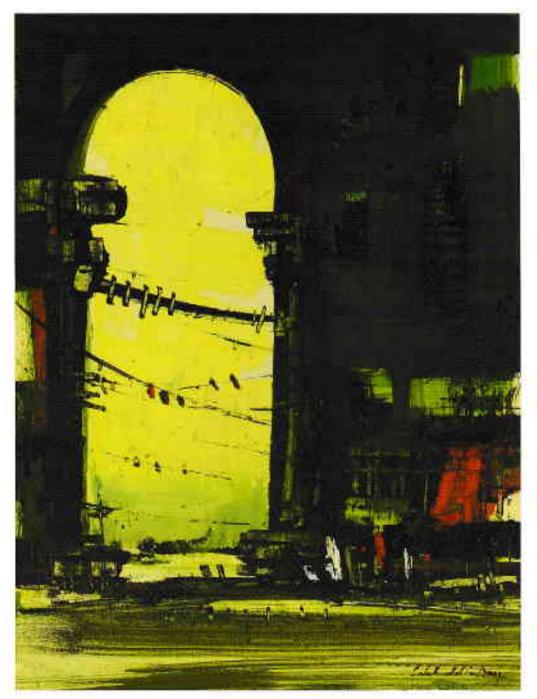


Image of the city-32 Oil on Paper 16"x21"





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



Festival-2 Mixed Media 14"x11"



Kazi Salahauddin 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 Nandanic, 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 Française, 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 Farancise, 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- Ist 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 Naitional Art Exhibition of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Bangladesh,
- 2001- 1st Biennale Art Exhibition, Bangladesh Charushipi Sangsad nation al 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 Gooses 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 Artist's 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 Artist's Art Exhibition, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka. Babgladesh.
- 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 Artist's 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 Artist's Art Exhibition, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1987 Victory Day Art Exhibition, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Present Position- Freelance Artist

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