



# Faces of the Millennium

Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed





## Epiphany of scratched faces

By Javed Jalil

Time, conceived as a force, is capable of acting as a shadow of experience and existence, of people and objects. The marks on a land slowly change its path and structure, moving to decadence and yet, reconstruct itself into a new formation of changed possibilities, to survive in the present milieu. During each episode or the passage of eras, human faces somehow become an expression of their belief and their expressions. The geographical marks of actions create the aura of faces and leave behind marks and scratches of their time spent. The surface of the face, the lines and inscription, are almost like geo-emotions of landscapes and sensations of time.

Pablo Picasso was once asked about drawing faces and the beauty contained in it, and he answered that he found it more enticing to render the lines of the face of an old woman, with its depth in beauty through the experience of having felt living time, because it is a more beautiful expression than that of a young woman, whose face is not yet ripe with sensation. Even in the dark paintings of Francisco de Goya, the faces were tormented. Goya was asked to paint the beautiful, but he said what he drew was beauty, because that is what he saw all around him. The perception of beauty for an artist cannot be set apart from what affects him, a story, a happening, a scenario, from which he finds his personal ways of looking at things. It carries the depicted reality and imagination, fused together, to create the truth of the time.

Artist Salahuddin has been exploring his visions through the Birdseye view, of urban life and the circuits of human vibration and pulsation. He has been working on the geo-patterns of living cities and transformed urban

distinctiveness, and made them intricate them through aerial landscape perceptions. But in the present exhibition, Salahuddin has come down from the view from above, to close-up characters of the city, where he chose the human beings as his subject - the creators of these urban lives, their climaxes, and he has ornamented these landscapes with joy, terror and flimsiness, and also their ways of life and effects.

To express the present time, especially the physical placement of our part of the world, Salahuddin choose faces as a symbol of our times. It seems the artist has travelled from space to focus on breathing. Salahuddin's journey of expressions, patterns, dissection of space, blending of elements into the compositional planes, were previously done from an abstract expressionist point of view, by using lines, shapes and textures as a means of expression in itself. He now expresses expressionist concerns through the use of symbols from reality to represent his inner glorifications of existence.

The way of life of the overpopulated streets, the chaos and rush of traffic, the sound pollution, loss of power supply and the muggers - all these restless situations create a strong impact on his inner plane and consumes the artist, leading him to a captive state of existence. Salahuddin wants freedom from all these exterior conflicts and as a means to that, he has created tortured faces that penetrate the painterly surface, crying out for salvation - faces with the innocence of childhood, characters from hip hop, and old workers consumed by the burning sun.

Salahuddin's faces suggest a strong sense of inwardness, which is elevated into a demographic constellation of the present time, like marks of living tales. Faces as signs of various emotions, the spirit and matter of relationships, the altitude of agony, the antithesis of the polarities of good and evil, destiny - these subjective associations of thought are awakened by the way Salahuddin has used signs as faces of his means of expression and revealed the secrets of his hidden tide. The expressions of eyes in his paintings are far-reaching sights of certain desires and searches - it feels like his characters are longing for freedom. The artist takes the viewers out of the composition, with his cut-out faces and depth of inner vision, through the rendition of scratched and textured ground, to explore his anguish.

Salahuddin's techno-structural characters in mechanized compositions represent the environment of a time in a materialistic world of machines, which creates a greater paradox in the faces because of their humanized temperament. But the artist also conveys the gap between the technological era and human disposition, the conflict between man and machine. The clown of poverty and human tragedy still remains a mystery in time, which is revealed through the various faces where there is a vacuum between matter and spirit, and it longs for a utopia of oneness.





## Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed

1963 : Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh

### Education :

1986 : M.S.S. International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

### Present position : Freelance Artist

### Workshop

- 2009 : 1Mile<sup>2</sup>, Organized by Britto Art Trust & Tringle Art, UK
- 1999 : India-Bangladesh Art Camp, Organized by Kolkata Nandanic, India
- 1995 : Metal Workshop, Conducted by Suzanne Benton at Institute of Fine Arts University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 1989 : Art History And Art Appreciation Course, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Dhaka, Bangladesh

### Solo Exhibition

- 2010 : Shilpangan Gallery, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2010 : Nomad Centre & Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 2009 : National Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 2008 : bca Gallery, Mumbai, India
- 2007 : Bangladesh Gallery, Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh, Kolkata, India
- 2006 : Nomad Centre & Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2006 : Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2005 : Jehangir Art Gallery Mumbai, India
- 2005 : Hamial Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2004 : Spitalfields Gallery, London, UK
- 2004 : La Gallery, Alliance Française, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2004 : Hilton Beijing Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2004 : Art Association of Harrisburg pa, USA
- 2003 : Bangladesh National Museum, Dhaka Bangladesh
- 2002 : Chuwa Gallery Ginza, Tokyo, Japan
- 2001 : Seas Art Studios And Gallery, Adelaide, Australia
- 2001 : La Galene, Alliance Française, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2001 : Birla Academy of Arts and Culture, Kolkata, India
- 2000 : Art Konsault, New Delhi, India,
- 2000 : Solo Miniature Painting Exhibition, Gallery De Alliance Française, Dhaka
- 1999 : Gallery 21, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 1998 : Tounst 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 Française, Dhaka Bangladesh
- 1995 : Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka.
- 1994 : La Gallery, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 1993 : Gallery, De Alliance Française, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 1987 : TSC, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

### Group Exhibition

- 2008 : 17th National Art Exhibition, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh.
- 2008 : 13th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2006 : 12nd Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2005 : 16th National Art Exhibition, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh.

- 2004 : 5th Art Now Asia, Las Vagus Art Museum, Las Vagus, USA
- 2004 : 9th Art Mirai International Art Exhibition, Tokyo, Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan.
- 2003 : Orient Color and Shape in Jakarta
- 2003 : 7th International Biennial of Miniature Art Yugoslavia.
- 2003 : 8th Art Mirai International Art Exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2003 : 27th Anniversary International Miniature Art Show, MASE USA
- 2003 : 11th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2002 : 2nd Biennial of Contemporary Painting of the Islamic World, Tehran, Iran.
- 2002 : 6th Miniature Painters Sculptures And Grovers Society of Washington D.C USA
- 2002 : 20th Annual Juried Miniature Art Exhibition, Long Island USA.
- 2002 : 5th International Exhibition of Miniature And Small Pictures SAMAF France
- 2002 : 39th Annual Lake Oswego Festival the Arts International Miniature Art Show, USA
- 2002 : 10th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2002 : 26th Anniversary International Miniature Art Show, MASF USA
- 2001 : 19th Annual Juried Miniature Art Exhibition, Long Island USA.
- 2001 : 1st Contemporary Young Artists Exhibition from Bangladesh, Chuwa Gallery, Ginza, Tokyo, Japan
- 2001 : 4th International Exhibition of Miniature And Small Pictures, SAMAF France
- 2001 : Paper Mill Playhouse International Miniature Art Exhibition, Nj USA
- 2000 : Contemporary Art from Bangladesh Exhibition in China
- 2000 : The Sixth International Biennial of Miniature Art I Yugoslavia
- 2000 : 25th Anniversary International Miniature Art Show, MASF USA
- 1999 : 9th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 1999 : 17th Annual Juried Miniature Art Exhibition, Long Island, USA
- 1999 : "Sonar Bangladesh" at Artoday, New Delhi, India
- 1998 : 1st Tone International Miniature Art Exhibition 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.
- 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
- 1995 : 10th Georgia Miniature Art Inc USA
- 1995 : 2nd Tone National Miniature Art Competition Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 1993 : 6th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 1992 : 10th National Art Exhibition, Shilpalda Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 1988 : 8th Young Artist's Art Exhibition, Bangladesh Shilpalda Academy.
- 1987 : Victory Day Art Exhibition, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh

### Award

- 2008 : Honorable Mention Award, 13th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2002 : Honorable Mention Award, 69th Miniature Painters, Sculptures And Grovers Society of Washington D.C. USA
- 2000 : 2nd Prize In Abstract and Surrealism, 25th Anniversary International Miniature Art Show, HAS F, 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 The 10th Georgia Miniature Art Society Inc USA

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previously employed 80X80 mixed media 2010  
Cover : still searching 80X80 mixed media 2010

## Solo Painting Exhibition

7 to 21st May 2010

Courtesy by : Tarik Sujat

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