



## 11 Gates to Visual Basis

Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed



## 11 Gates to Visual Basis

Materiality and visibility are two interconnected qualities that **Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed** has been employing to the advantage of the very structure of his mixed media works. When the painter first resorted to 'found objects' to re-inscribe his abstract idiom a decade or so ago, he attached plastic pots and plates onto his canvas. He co-opted the materials that matched with his topographical propositions, which were like bird's eye views of Dhaka's heterotopic geography.

In the current installation titled '11 Gates to Visual Basics', where the artist employs mangled tin sheets from discarded drums and trays used in road construction, a new strategy emerges. Here the material and process come together to complement each other and the artwork as an object of contemplation is displaced to let the co-opted objects – tin sheets and found objects – release a bundle of emotions and thoughts.

Though the architecture of all eleven pieces resides in a field of ambiguity, from their very existence catastrophes and their effects on the human psyche can easily be deciphered.

Catastrophes have an uncanny power to linger on people engaged in world-making from within the social/mental sphere. However, Salahuddin's employment of a visual language developed with the scraps of metal sheet not only works like a vassal for memory but also serves as a conduit that leads one to the actual world – both man-made and natural.

In fact, the installation gives rise to a tangle of effects – it takes the viewers closer to the consequences that await all human constructions. And also hints at the human survival instinct linked to the idea of building. The artist forms an alliance with objects with the minimum of intervention. The markings and painted areas – they let the objects retain their original character.

If art is a form of mediation, 11 Gates to Visual Basics almost bridges the gap between the man-made and the natural. Salahuddin's new creation unpeels some of the most relevant narratives of urban disaster as well as civilisational implications. They recent fires in Old Dhaka factories, though are only hinted at, the works clearly demonstrate how the man-made is flimsy and ephemeral, as opposed to the natural.

On the question of time, this exhibition also threads the past with the future by letting us know that things must go through mutations – that is the eternal natural cycle the work acknowledges.



Reconstructing a Site - 1  
Size: 213 cm X 86 cm, Media: Media: enamel, pastel and bitumen on metal sheet





Reconstructing a Site - 2

Size: 213 cm X 86 cm, Media: Media: enamel, pastel and bitumen on metal sheet

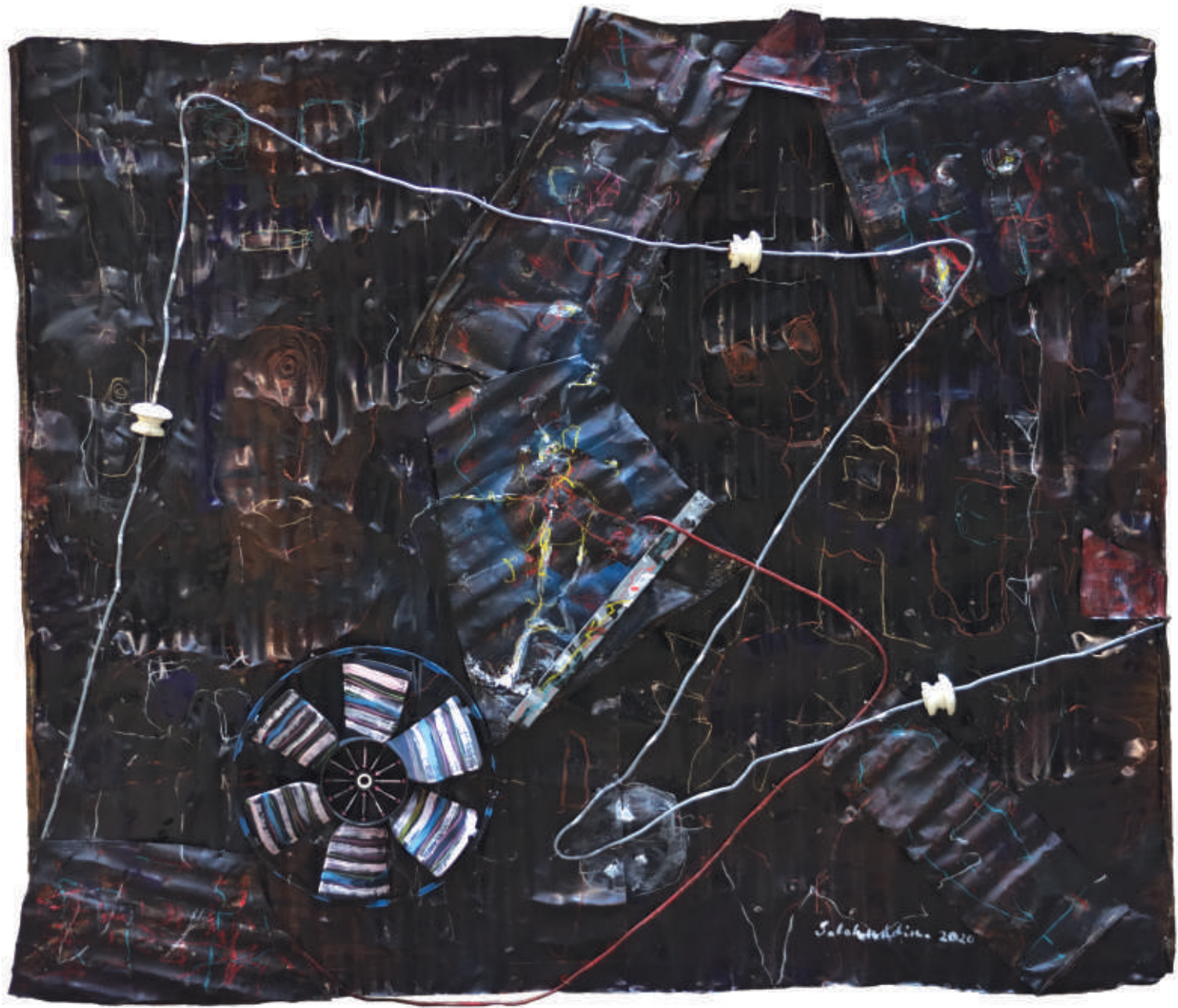


Reconstructing a Site - 3  
Size: 213 cm X 86 cm, Media: Media: enamel, pastel and bitumen on metal sheet



Reconstructing a Sight - 1  
Size: 275 cm X 244 cm, Media: Media: enamel, pastel and bitumen on metal sheet



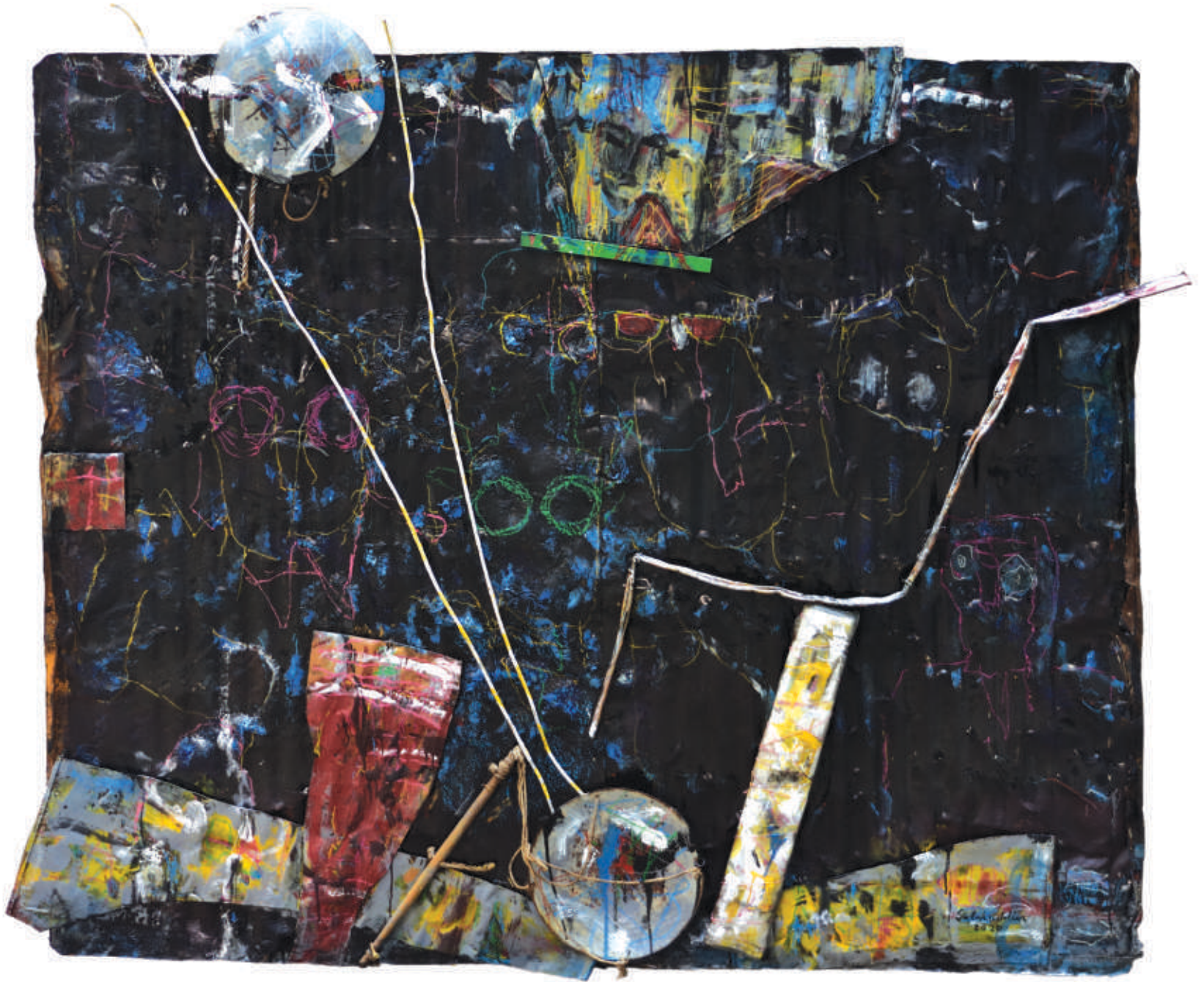


Reconstructing a Site - 5 Size: 152 cm X 182 cm Media: Media: enamel, pastel and bitumen on metal sheet



Reconstructing a Site - 4  
Size: 213 cm X 86 cm, Media: enamel, pastel and bitumen on metal sheet





Reconstructing a Site - 8 Size: 152 cm X 182 cm Media: Media: enamel, pastel and bitumen on metal sheet





Reconstructing a Site - 6 Size: 165 cm X 213 cm Media: Media: enamel, pastel and bitumen on metal sheet



### **Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed**

Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1963

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

**Studio:** 42, Rup Lal Das Lane

Shambazar, Dhaka-1100, Bangladesh.

Phone:+88 01552343583

Web: www.artistkazisalahuddin.com

#### **Workshops**

2018 : Collaborative Art Project 'Hamra' in Thakurgaon initiated by Gidree Bauli with an outcome exhibition at EMK Centre, Dhaka.

2017 : Collaborative Art Project 'In Site' organised by Gidree Bauli, Thakurgaon, Bangladesh.

2013 : The 1st Changzhou China International Art Workshop and Festival at China.

2012 : Ecorea Jeonbuk Art Biennale at Korea.

2010 : India-Bangladesh Art Camp, organized by Bengal Foundation, Dhaka.

: Spring Art Fair, Organize by Bangladesh Art Council.

2009 : 1 Mile2, organize by Britto Arts Trust, Arts Council England, Visiting Arts, dcms, British Council, in Dhaka.

1995 : Metal Workshop conducted by Suzanne Benton at the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka.

2019 : International Dolphin Preservation Project by IUCN at Sundarban.

2019 : World heritage project organized by EU, German Cultural Center, Alliance Francais and British Council

#### **Major Solo Exhibitions**

2018 : Solo Art Exhibition, Fragmented Unity, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Bangladesh.

2016 : Solo painting exhibition Eternal Ring Tone-2 at Gallery Shilpangan, Dhaka.

2015 : Solo painting exhibition, organic City, La Gallery, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka.

2014 : in(site) a retrospective art exhibition, National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka.

2014 : Solo painting exhibition, National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka

2010 : La Gallery, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka

: Shilpangan Art Gallery, Dhaka

: Birla Academy of Arts & Culture, Kolkata, India

: Nomad Center & Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan

2009 : National Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka, Bangladesh

2006 : Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan

2005 : Jehangir Art Gallery Mumbai, India

2005 : Hamial Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan

2004 : Spitafields Gallery, London, UK

2004 : Hilton Beijing Gallery, Beijing, China

2004 : Art Association of Harrisburg pa, USA

2003 : Bangladesh National Museum, Dhaka

2002 : Chuwa Gallery Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

2001 : Seas Art Studios and Gallery, Adelaide, Australia.

2001 : Birla Academy of Arts and Culture, Kolkata, India

2000 : Art Konsault, New Delhi., India

1999 : Gallery 21, Dhaka, Bangladesh

1998 : Shajahan Art Gallery New Delhi, India

1997 : Gallery De Alliance Francaise, Dhaka Bangladesh

2020- Solo exhibition at Alliance Francais de Dhaka

#### **Major Group Exhibitions**

2018 : 18th Asian Art Biennial, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka

2018 : 4th National Sculpture Exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka

2018 : 4th Dhaka Art Summit, Dhaka

2017 : 22nd National Art Exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka

2017 : Two Man Show, Bangladesh High Commission, at Copenhagen, Denmark

2016 : 17th Asian Art Biennial, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

2015 : 21st National Art Exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

2015 : Silk Journey to Art Group Painting Exhibition, Beijing

2014 : Group Exhibition of 7 Bangladeshi Artists, Icon Gallery, New York

2014 : 2nd Dhaka Art Summit, Dhaka

2013 : The 1st Changzhou China International Art Biennial at China

2012 : 5th Beijing International Art Biennial, China

2012 : Ecorea Jeonbuk Art Biennale at Korea

2012 : 15th Asian Art Biennial, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

2011 : 19th National Art Exhibition, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

2010 : 4th Beijing International Art Biennial, China

2010 : 10th International Biennial of Miniature Art, Serbia

2009 : 18th National Art Exhibition, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

2008 : 13th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka

2007 : 17th National Art Exhibition, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

2006 : 12th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka

2005 : 16th National Art Exhibition, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

2004 : 5th Art Now Asia, Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas

2004 : 9th Art Mirai International Art Exhibition, Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo

2003 : Orient Color and Shape in Jakarta

2003 : 7th International Biennial of Miniature Art Yugoslavia

2003 : 8th Art Mirai International Art Exhibition, Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo

2003 : 11th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh

2002 : 2nd Biennial of Contemporary Paining of the Islamic World, Tehran, Iran

2002 : 10th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka

2000 : Contemporary Art from Bangladesh in China

1999 : 9th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka

1999 : "Sonar Bangladesh" at Art Day, Delhi

1998 : 30th "Painters Exhibition from Bangladesh" in Osaka, Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto

1997 : 12th Georgia Miniature Art Inc, USA

1997 : 8th Asia Art Biennial, Dhaka

1996 : 12th Annual juried Miniature Art Exhibition, Long Island, USA

1995 : 2nd Tone National Miniature Art Competition Dhaka

1993 : 6th Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka

1987 : Victory Day Art Exhibition, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka

2019 : Bangladeshi Art Exhibition, Museum of Asia & Pacific, Warsaw, Poland

#### **Awards**

2018 : Honorable Mention Award, 4th National Sculpture Exhibition, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka

2012 : Grand Award, 15 Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka

2008 : Honorable Mention Award, 13 Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka

2002 : Honorable Mention Award, 69th Miniature Painters, Sculptures and Grover's 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 Grover's 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, USA

1995 : Hon' Mention Award the 10th Georgia Miniature Art Society Inc. USA





4 - 15 February 2020

Venue: *La Galerie*

Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi (Corner of Road no. 3), Dhaka, 1205, Bangladesh



Alliance Française  
Dhaka

Reconstructing a Site - 9 Size: 177 cm X 81 cm Media: enamel, pastel and bitumen on metal sheet  
Cover: Reconstructing a Site - 7 Size: 152 cm X 182 cm Media: enamel, pastel and bitumen on metal sheet