



CURTAIN RISES ON 19TH ASIAN ART BIENNALE AT BANGLADESH SHILPAKALA ACADEMY THE LARGEST ART EXTRAVAGANZA UNDERWAY

Bulletin Correspondent

For centuries, Dhaka has been a centrepiece of cultural activities, especially art, drawing interests of many local and international artists who have depicted the cultural capital in its evolving colours and contours. In the earliest period, Dhaka was depicted in the artworks of British artists who fell in love with the city's religious, cultural and culinary trends. In the last century, the city served as an inspiration for many local artists including some of the master painters.

With time, the capital of Bangladesh has been a hub of all form of cultural activities, particularly visual art. Amid a rendezvous of cultural programmes and festivals in Dhaka, the Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh stands out in its own merits. On December 8, Dhaka welcomed the 19th Asian edition of the biennale with great fervour inviting artworks and artists from 114 countries including the host Bangladesh, at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

An amalgamation of enchanting arts and creative art forms, the 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh has brought together 649 artworks by 493 artists of



the world under one roof at the heart of Dhaka, with the theme of "Home and Displacement". It is said to be the biggest art exhibition in Asia. This year, the biennale has been dedicated to the greatest Bangali of all time, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The month-long exhibition will run from December 8 to January 7. The grand art fiesta is also featuring interesting segments including-

Children's corner, International art camp, Seminars (Home and Displacement), Bangabandhu and Liberation War, international curated shows, performance arts, sculptures, paintings, installation arts and new media works, among others.

The grand opening ceremony commenced at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on Thursday. Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

inaugurated the exhibition virtually, as the chief guest at the programme.

Md Abul Monsur, Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, President of the Jury Board and Renowned Artist Rafiqun Nabi and Member of the Jury Board Jaroslaw Suchan, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky and State Minister of Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid were present at the event.

Md Abul Monsur, Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, President of the Jury Board and Artist Rafiqun Nabi and Member of the Jury Board Jaroslaw Suchan were present as the special guests at the programme. State Minister of Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid, chaired the event and handed over the awards to the winners, on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina emphasised on the rich history of arts, and how the generations of artists brought revolution through their bold art forms throughout the history.

"Any nation's sense of self is expressed through its art and culture. From the artist's canvas, country or nation's political, cultural, and natural

see page 02





continued page 1

surroundings are shown which boosts consciousness in people. Our artists have played a pivotal role in the language movement and the independence movement for our country," said Sheikh Hasina.

"We have worked together to extend Shilpakala Academy by creating National Theater, Experimental Hall, Music and Dance auditorium, Fine Arts Auditorium, Nandan Mancha and more. We have constructed new buildings for the academy in 64 districts and have set up Shilpakala Academies in 493 upazilas," added the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister hopes that the 19th Biennial Asian Art Exhibition will help artists to nurture their artistic freedoms and bring more social changes in the world.

Polish art critic Jaroslaw Suchan reflected on the theme of the Biennale, and how artists stage their protests on their issues through art.

Rafiqun Nabi announced the names of the Grand Award winners and the Honourable Mention Award recipients. The Grand Award winners received BDT 5 lacs while Honourable Mention Award winners got BDT 3 lacs each. The winners also received a crest and a certificate for their outstanding works at the exhibition.

The grand prize winners are- Sushanta Kumar Adhikary (Bangladesh), Yasmin Jahan Nupur (Bangladesh), and Harold (The Netherlands). The Honourable Mention Awards were presented to Bangladeshi artists Fareha Zeba, Jayatu Chakma, Mamur Ahsan Mahtab, Maynul

Islam Paul, Suman Chandra Das, and a Portuguese artist Ana Silvia Malhado.

The month-long programme has become a confluence of classics and contemporary art pieces and a meeting point of several hundred local and foreign artists, curators, connoisseurs, critics, scholars and enthusiasts who made the biennale what it is. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is the organizer of the biennale in association with the ministry of Cultural Affairs.

The biennale features two and three-dimensional artworks like painting print, photography, sculpture, installation, performance and new media arts. The participating countries at the biennale include Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt, Congo, The Philippines, The Netherlands, France, Portugal, USA, UK, Lithuania, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Peru, Ireland, Iran, Turkey, Australia, Ukraine and Germany.

In addition, the biennale, in line with its tradition, is also hosting artworks by Bangladeshi master painters including Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan, SM Sultan, Shafuuddin Ahmed, Murtaja Baseer, Aminul Islam, Mohammad Kibria and Qayyum Chowdhury.

A five-member international jury consisting of renowned Bangladeshi artist Professor Rafiqun Nabi, Sri Lankan artist and archaeologist Jagath Weerasinghe, Turkish artist Ms. Nurseren Tor, Director of Whitechapel Gallery (UK) Ms. Lwona Blazwick and



Board of Member, the National Committee of ICOM (Poland) Jaroslaw Suchan selected the award winning artworks.

Artist across Asia, confronted with emerging realities are increasingly adjusting their personal strategies to the global preference for new media while working within traditional boundaries where artistic expressions are seen to reflect the interconnectedness of art, society and environment. The works by these artists are not only socially engaging but they are also embedded in the diction of the current digital age.

Bangladesh has always encouraged artists to explore their contemporary society, its cultural and aesthetic values, its history, economy and everyday life, while not bounding themselves within

their cultural boundaries. The artists dwell in a trans-cultural domain, but their works are conversant with their own artistic traditions, their styles of expression, radical innovation and the diversity of their aesthetic formulations. Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, one of the oldest international art biennales in Asia, is a space for cultural convergence. It trails a glorious history of more than four decades. It has played a catalytic role in the region's artistic growth since its inception in 1981. Launched with the aim to explore Asian Modern and contemporary art with an additional focus on internationally circulating practices, the month-long exhibition today serves as a platform for diverse modes of artistic creations and discursive intervention. ☺



ASIAN ART BIENNALE BANGLADESH 2022 KICKS OFF AT BSA A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD ON TUESDAY

Bulletin Correspondent

The 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2022 kicks off at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). In this regard, a press conference was held at the seminar room of the National Theatre Hall of BSA on Tuesday. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky spoke at the press conference elaborating on this edition's arrangement.

“A total of 649 artworks by the 493 artists from 114 countries will participate in the 19th edition of the biennale,” said Liaquat Ali Lucky. “The grand opening of the month-long exhibition will be held at National Theatre Auditorium of the academy at 10:00am on 8 December.”

“Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will virtually inaugurate the exhibition as the chief guest. Cultural Affairs Ministry Secretary Md. Abul Mansur, president of the jury board of the exhibition renowned artist Rafiqun Nabi, jury board member Jaroslaw Suchan will be the special guests,” added the director general.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky will deliver welcome speech with State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid in the chair. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in association with Cultural Affairs Minister is going to organise the mega art event.

Liaquat Ali Lucky spoke about the



details of the event at the press conference. He also moderated the session. Jury board members of the exhibition Jagath Weerasinghe from Sri Lanka, Nurseren Tor from Turkey, Iwona Blazwick from UK and Jaroslaw Suchan from Poland, among others, were present on the occasion.

The art exhibition will continue till January 7 in 2023. The month-long exhibition will display two and three-dimensional artworks, including painting, prints, photography, sculpture, installation, performance art and new media art etc.

Some 493 artists from 114 countries, including Bangladesh are participating in the exhibition. A total of 344 foreign artists with 493 artworks and 194 Bangladeshi artists with 156 artworks are going to participate in this grand art exhibition.

Besides, a two-day international seminar titled ‘Home and Displacement’ will also be held on December 9 and December 10.

A five-member jury panel has been formed to select the best artworks for three grand awards and six honourable mention awards. The recipients of grand awards and honourable mention awards will be awarded at the inaugural ceremony.

The 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2022 has been dedicated to the name of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to pay homage to his birth centenary celebration. 📸

PERSPECTIVE ON ASIAN ART BIENNALE BANGLADESH: INTO THE REALM OF PERFORMANCE ART

continued page 6

Although artists from different countries of the world participate, we have confirmed the participation of all under the name of Asian Fine Art Exhibition with the advice of advisors and jury members. We will develop Dhaka as a city of art as our local artists will present international quality paintings from across the country, subcontinent, Asia, Europe, America and all over the world and will also show performances of artists at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premises. The conviction is visible not only to build a city of art but also to build a humane

world. The road in front of the National Art Gallery building, of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premises, Arts Faculty Building, Faculty of Science, Curzon Hall and TSC of Dhaka University, National Parliament South Plaza premises, opposite the Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh, Jagannath University, Suhrawardy Udyan are many other spots for showcasing performance art. Eviction from land, noise pollution, violence, deprivation of rights, inhumane lives with artworks are being displayed by performance artists in gardens, Sadarghat, Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi Lake Road, Ramana Park etc. Crisis of civilization, poverty,

loneliness, environmental degradation, man-made disasters, racism, drug addiction, sexual harassment, Loss of music etc. are presented and the performances were visually stunning and promising. Participating performance artists from Bangladesh are Abu Naser Robi, Afsana Sharmin, Akramul Momen, Asim Halder Sagor, Efat Razowana Reya, Farah Naz Moon, Md Zahid Hossain, Jublee Dewan, Arpita Singha Lopa, Meherun Aktar Sumi, Moniruzzaman Shipu, Mustafa Zaman, Nazia Andaleeb Preema, Niloofer Chaman, Palash Bhattacharjee, Shaila Jinnat Runi, Ronni Ahmed, Saleh Mahmud, Sanjoy Chakraborty, Sanjid

Mahmud, Sujon Mahabub, Sumana Akter, Syed Muhammad Zakir, Yasmin Jahan Nupur and Sumon Biswas. The foreign performance artists are Reiko Shimizu (Japan), Gonzalo Rabanal (Chile), Aicha Muteba Makana (Congo), Jolanda Jansen (the Netherlands), Mila Berrios (Chile) and Kim Gwang Cheol (Korea). Performance Art Open Discussion Performance Art 'Multi+Dimensional' will take place at 6:30 pm at National Art Gallery performance art venue on 12 December 2022. 📸



The 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2022, dedicating to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is attracting a large crowd on the opening day with its colours and contours. People from different strata of society, with a shared love for art, come to the biennale to see the artworks, sculptures, installations and performance art. There is also a craft themed decoration at the National Art Gallery and the entire Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premises, which attracts audience as well.







PERSPECTIVE ON ASIAN ART BIENNALE BANGLADESH: INTO THE REALM OF PERFORMANCE ART



Bulletin Correspondent

Asian Art Biennale is one of the international art events that artists, critics, art connoisseurs and enthusiasts look to with high expectations. Starting its journey in 1981, the biennale has become bigger and better in every two years. The ongoing 19th edition of Asian Art Biennale surpassed every other biennale held before in terms of size, dimension, festivities, and glory making Bangladesh appear as a strong patron and cultivator of art especially, especially contemporary art in a global platform.

Performance art, the newly-discovered passion of artists across the world, has caught wide attention among artists in Bangladesh, too, and the inclusion of it in the 19th Asian Art Biennale, in a greater scale, will popularise, it further among both artists and art lovers as they continue to search for newer interpretations of that they think, believe and perceive. Not only the biennale, performance art has also found its place in other art initiatives of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy too, thanks to the strong support from the academy's director general Liaquat ali Lucky.

As part of the biennale, two phases of performance art show titled "Bohu+Matrik" (Multidimensional) is taking place under the plan and advice

from Liaquat Ali Lucky and curated by Abdus Salam.

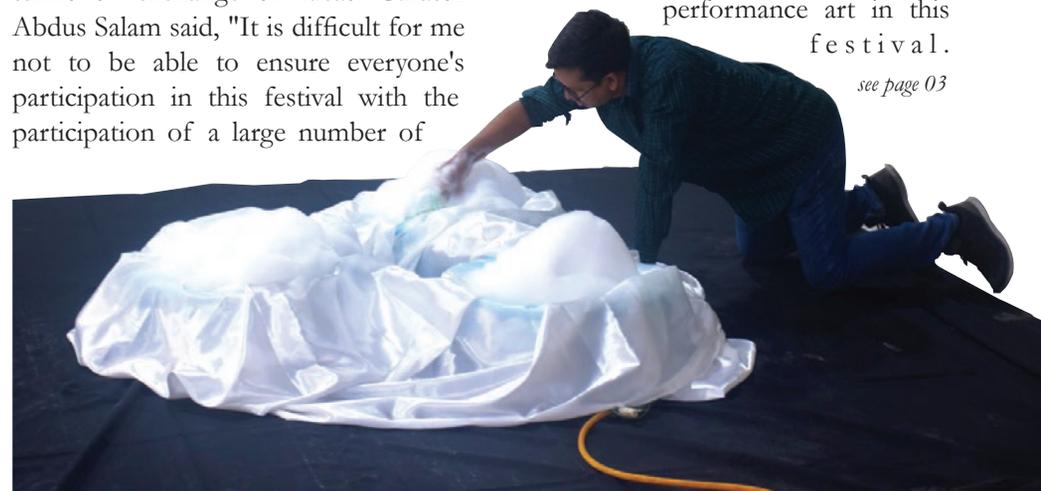
When art takes refuge in the physical expression of the artist, we generally call it performance art, which has gradually made its place in the contemporary art scene starting in the 1990s. Many artists have accelerated its unbound voyage making it an essential part of today's art scene, and that justifies its prominence in the ongoing Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh.

Performance art is a distinct form of art media such as radio-stage-television-film-fine arts etc. As a painter's canvas is his surface of painting, so the actor's body is essentially his ground of creation. The artist worships the body by using it aesthetically to mesmerize the viewer and psychologically analyze the limitations of the body. It is an inevitable part of this art to stir the imagination of the artist by moving the mind of the audience using any place and time. The search for truth in physical representation is the core of this art. The 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2022 is being organized by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy with full cooperation from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh. Performance Art 'Multidimensional' has started from December 1. Performance Art

'Multidimensional' is taking place at the outer premises of various galleries of BSA. In parallel with the presentation and exhibition in the premises, the exhibition journey was inaugurated in different places of Dhaka outside the academy. At the inauguration of the multi-dimensional performance art programme, the director of the fine art department, Syeda Mahbuba Karim, said, "We hold this grand event every two years; due to the corona epidemic, we couldn't hold it in 2020. But this year we are doing it on a bigger scale. The exhibition will be held inside and outside the academy premises. Hopefully, the art presentation of our local and foreign artists will be multi-dimensional as a subject and this art exhibition will express a multi-dimensional feeling in terms of exchange of ideas. Curator Abdus Salam said, "It is difficult for me not to be able to ensure everyone's participation in this festival with the participation of a large number of

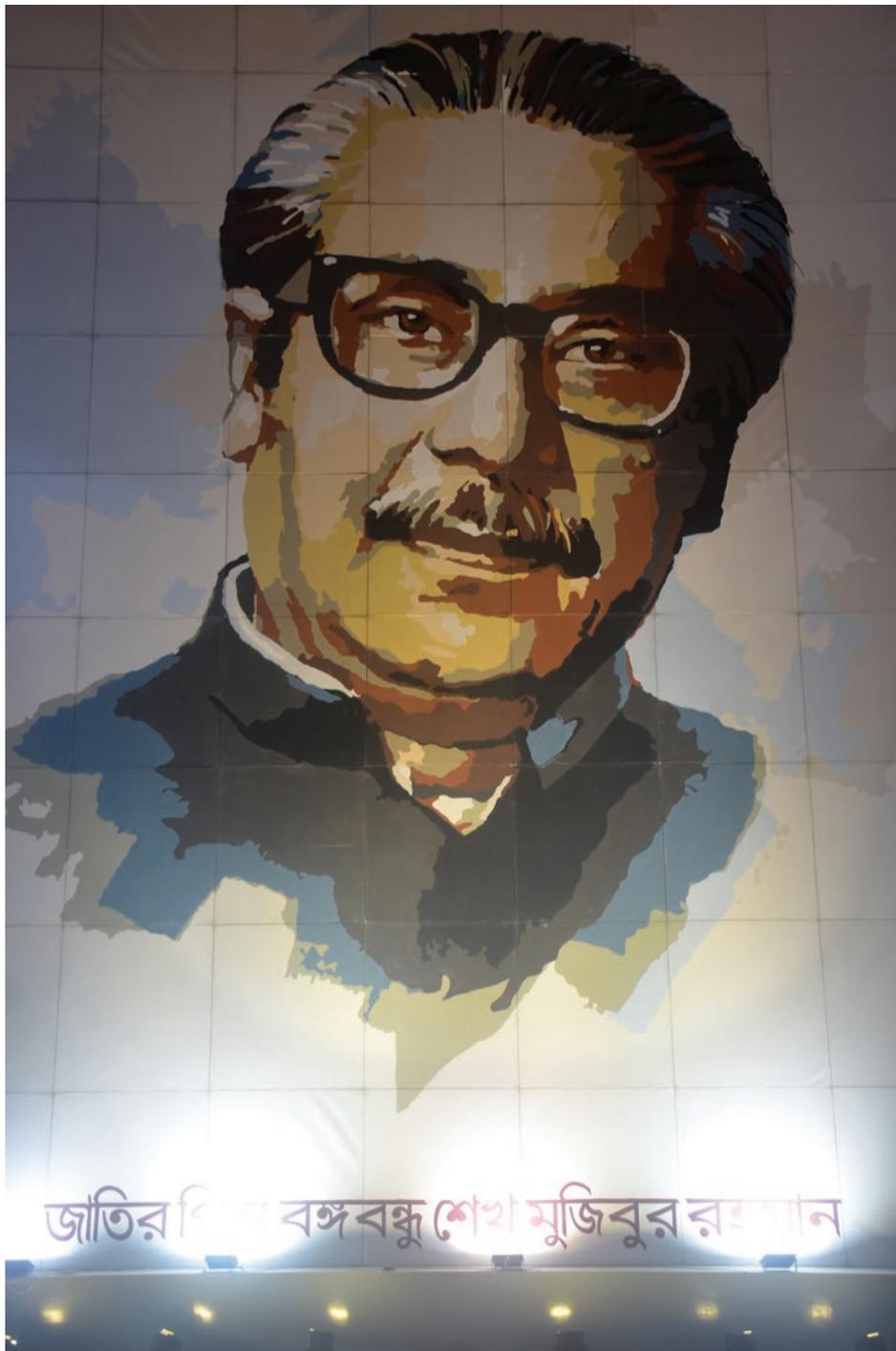
performance artists. But this interest makes us think." "With the sincere efforts of the Director General, this year I have prepared to exhibit the performance art of a total of 51 performance artists from home and abroad. 36 artists will perform solo performance art and Bangladesh Performance Art Group will have a group performance engaging 15 artists." The Director General must consider that the many performing artistes of the country who did not get the opportunity to perform on a larger scale in subsequent events. Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Liaquat Ali Lucky said that there are more than fifty art movements around the world. All art movements and art representations ultimately tell and continue to tell new stories in new times aesthetically. Talking patterns have evolved, but not detours or roadblocks. Artists looked back when necessary but never looked back. They are always moving forward, wanting to move forward. As a result, since 2012, when I wanted to combine painting, sculpture, printmaking, oriental art, crafts, pottery, graphic design, photography, installation art, etc., in parallel with performance art at the New Media Festival, many artists were able to do so. It's not easy. But seeing the power and aesthetics of art medium like performance art, they are now showing interest in this medium. It is the inspiration of our artists; inspiration for artists from all over Bangladesh including Dhaka. Artists from all over Bangladesh including Dhaka are getting an opportunity to present and exhibit their performance art here; similarly, artists from Chile, Congo, the Netherlands, Korea, Mexico and Japan will also present their performance art in this festival.

see page 03





THE 19TH ASIAN ART BIENNALE BANGLADESH HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN



AABB Bulletin Report

The 'Poet of Politics', who through his lifelong struggle and visionary leadership, gifted us a green canvas of 56 thousand square miles called the independent country 'Bangladesh' is the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In 1971, with his powerful leadership, Bangladesh was born after twenty-three years of exploitation and nine months of blood-shredded liberation war. And, cultural awakening has played an important role behind the birth of Bangladesh. Language is the most important cultural element and Pakistani leaders targeted our language in the first phase. After that, they started to destroy our diversified and rich culture. At that time, Bangabandhu realized that we needed a country with cultural, economic and political independence. And, the name of that country is Bangladesh. Through the Language movement of 1952, the Education movement of 1962, the Six-point demand of 1966, the Mass uprising of 1969, the National Election of 1970 and the liberation war of 1971, Bangabandhu gifted us an independent and sovereign Bangladesh. On 10th January, 1972, after getting released from the prison of Pakistan two days back, our Father of the Nation stepped on the land of our independent Bangladesh for the first time. Immediately after his returning, he concentrated on reconstructing the country. First of all, he took the initiative of writing the constitution. On the one hand, when the eminent jurists were working on drafting the constitution, the art lover Bangabandhu formed a committee with five acclaimed artists from the country to embellish the constitution. The chief of this committee was Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. Other members were artist Jonabul Islam, Samarjit Roy Choudhury, Abul Barq Alvi and Hashem Khan.

It can easily be understood how much passion for art he has to take this wonderful initiative.

The four main principles added by Bangabandhu to the constitution of Bangladesh were also helpful to create an artistically affluent, creative and humane Bangladesh. He knew that to stand tall in front of the world, a country needs to have a cultural revolution. And, for this reason, the best Bengali of all time, Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, established Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) for developing the cultural prosperity and taking the culture of Bangladesh to the global stage. To nurture and fulfill Bangabandhu's dream of 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal), along with the art revolutionaries of Bangladesh, BSA is playing an important role in outreach and proliferation of the art and culture of Bangladesh on national and International platforms. By organizing various national and International exhibitions and cultural events, BSA has been promoting the realm of art of Bangladesh. From the very beginning of the Fine Art Department of BSA, it has been organizing many national and international exhibitions (Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, National Fine Art Exhibition, Fine Art Exhibition for young artists, National Sculpture Exhibition, National Photography Exhibition; to name a few).

For the last four decades, the 'Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh' exhibition has been one of the most ancient and respected international fine art exhibitions. With the patronage of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, BSA has been organizing this prestigious festival with pride.

From 8th December, 2022 to 7th January, 2023, with the patronage of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, BSA will be organizing a month-long 19th edition of 'Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh' at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

We have celebrated the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in 2020. He was born to a noble Muslim family at Tungipara Village, Gopalganj Mohukuma, of Faridpur district on 17th March, 1920.

To celebrate the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the national committee of the 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh has decided to dedicate the exhibition to his honour. In view of that, this year over 100 countries are taking part in this grand art fiesta.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is honoured for being able to pay homage to the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's memory and contributions through this edition of Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh. 🙏



ASIAN ART BIENNALE BANGLADESH HAS EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS...

- Liaquat Ali Lucky, DG, BSA, Chief Coordinator 19th AABB



LIAQUAT ALI LUCKY
Director General,
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
(Chief Coordinator 19th AABB)

Bulletin Correspondent

Eminent thespian, cultural personality and Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has shared his vision, aspirations and dreams of projecting Bangladesh artistically and culturally through the arrangement of 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2022. He is also the chief coordinator of the 19th edition of Asian Biennale Bangladesh (AABB), dedicating to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Excerpts:

“Whatever we have planned to successfully project the biennale, we have done accordingly. Rather, we have done something new to make it a little stunning. The decoration for the overall arrangement like gate, stage and galleries were designed in such a way that they turned out to be pieces of arts. We have also choreographed two cultural performances attuned to the theme of this year’s biennale called ‘Home and Displacement’. One is our own

experience of dealing with the Rohingya issue and another is the displacement due to the global war situation and its harmful ramifications especially on the worst vulnerability of children and women.”

“We have also produced a documentary on Rohingya issue, which is innovative in terms of making. We have another wish for choreographing another visual on Shaheed Minar, where our foreign artists and guests pay visit to show their homage to the language martyrs. Our foreign friends will have the opportunity to go down memory lane of our very own history and identity.”

“Alongside, we have initiated to hold an international art camp with exhibition at the premises of the mausoleum of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara, Gopalganj. The foreign artists and guest will thus pay deep homage to Bangabandhu, who the 19th Asian Biennale is dedicated to. They will also have the opportunity to visit the Padma Bridge from where they will join a river cruise while returning and eventually reach Dhaka.”

“Previously the artists from Asia and the Asia Pacific region would participate in the AABB, but from the 15th edition we have opened it for the entire world. Our state-minister for cultural affairs KM Khalid envisioned with the same spirit of diffusing the biennale around the world. Like previous editions, we urged the artists from the world to participate in the grand art event through the advertisement in internationally renowned magazines especially Art in America and Art Review. So, it became easier for us to attract the global artists and the biennale turned into a truly international art festival with the participations of 493 artists from the 114 countries of the world.”

“So far as I know this year the participating countries at the 120-year old Venice Biennale were 86. Ours is a biennale of four decade old where artists from 114 countries joined this year. This is, I think, is a milestone we touched for the first time. This is really a matter of pride for us.”

“The diversity and quality of the artworks are good as the selection committee mentioned it as the best amongst the previous editions. Even though we still have shortcomings in terms of curation and overall ambience creation, there are many aspects to be proud of. I am optimistic about several art projects, curated by both Bangladeshi and foreign curators and performance art show, curated by Abdus Salam. Another initiative to beautify the arrangement is to showcase the art project on the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman that has been placed at the centre of National Art Gallery Plaza.”

“Curating has some challenges as well. There are many renowned artists cum curators in Bangladesh. We have invited this year several international curators, who are working in unison with our local curators to successfully present the shows. We have also categorized artworks with regards to art zones instead of geographical continents in this edition.”

“Frankly speaking, I have got the vision and courage of projecting Bangladesh culturally and artistically from our honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. She is a real art connoisseur, critic and visionary. We are grateful to her as she inspires us all the way. Initially, the National Art Gallery had only one floor, which the Prime Minister had made into a four-storied art gallery and further seven-storied art gallery so that the Shilpakala Academy could arrange international events within its own premises. When the head of the state extends her sincere hands, we really take pride in the matter with utmost humbleness.”

“What is important to us is that through this biennale, we have got the chance to diffuse our very own artistic senses and cultural strength to the wider world so that the image of Bangladesh is reflected positively into global spectrum. I am grateful to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology along with several other

governmental and non-governmental bodies to make the mega event a grand success. The concerted efforts truly helped us branding Bangladesh to the wider audience.”

“The visiting artists ardently look forward to visit different architectural, archaeological, historical places marking the biennale. They want to listen to Baul songs and want to visit Fakir Lalon’s shrine at Kushtia. This actually speaks of our cultural strength. I am really elated with my life as I have done so many activities in the art, theatre and cultural arenas of Bangladesh both nationally and internationally. My village is culturally rich. My elder brother named Abu Mohammad Subed Ali Tipu was a member of Ganoparishad (Pakistan National Constituent Assembly). I got a great inspiration when Bangabandhu visited our locality and pated on my back while I was extending my hand towards him for a handshake. Another source of my inspiration is our Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. When she watched my play titled ‘Mujib Mane Mukti’ at the National Theatre Hall, she also pated on my back and critiqued some certain portions of the play. I was amazed at receiving her blessings.”

“The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman instituted Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. We are trending towards the path of dreams that Bangabandhu showed us. We are branding Bangladesh as a patron of art, literature and culture before the entire world. This is the motto and spirit of the biennale.”

“Art is a powerful medium. Many foreign artists approached me and expressed their fascination with the biennale. They are extremely impressed with the hospitality received from our people. Bangladesh is a land of natural beauty. It has its own rich culture and heritage. To make a creative and humanistic Bangladesh, we are following the collective spirit and power of our heritage. Bangladesh is a country of art, literature and culture and the essence of these things have been reflected in the arts of Bangladesh.”