

SYMPHONY OF RIVERS AND HILLS

Painting Exhibition

Organized & Curated by Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, Bangladesh



Jamal Uddin Ahmed



Kanak Chanpa Chakma



SYMPHONY OF RIVERS AND HILLS

Jamal Uddin Ahmed | Kanak Chanpa Chakma

October 15-30, 2022

Venue Partner



Gandhi Memorial Center

Magazine Partner

SHOWCASE
MAGAZINE

Exhibition Curated by **Sultan M Mineuddin**
Designed by **MD Badruzzaman Shuvo**
Exhibition Support **Nandina Islam Preeanka**

Acknowledgements
Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts
Gandhi Memorial Center

On Cover:
On Left: *From the river*, Mix media on paper, 30x20in, 2022
On Right: *The light of the spirit*, Acrylic on canvas, 48x20in, 2022



Buriganga river I, Acrylic on canvas, 71x78in, 2014



The sound of silence, Acrylic on canvas, 48x36 in, 2022

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he language of art forever reflects the evolution of human history along with the traditional significance of culture and human life through the creative efforts of artists. The artist envisions imagination with creative approaches which eventually turns into artifacts and art objects. The art and culture of Bangladesh bears historical significance since centuries back.

Athena Gallery of Fine Arts was first established in 2012 with the objective to assist Bangladeshi artists, particularly the young and aspiring, with a platform to depict their creative talents. It was renamed as “**Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts**” in 2017 to honor the memory of Abinta Kabir, who was an art connoisseur. Since then, Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts has been supporting young and established Bangladeshi artists alike in their effort to showcase their artworks.

Jamal Ahmed and Kanak Chanpa Chakma are two well-known artists of Bangladesh, renowned for their immense contribution in Bangladesh’s art world. The brush strokes of Jamal Ahmed remarkably represent the beauty and nature of rural Bengal, which earned him international prominence. Jamal Ahmed received the ‘Ekushey Padak’, the second highest civilian award of Bangladesh. Kanak Chanpa Chakma belongs to the largest indigenous community of Bangladesh, the Chakmas. Her artworks represent lifestyle, struggles, culture and tradition of her people. Her longtime struggle and efforts established her as a true artist presenting human feelings on canvas.

It is our great pleasure to curate such an exhibition in the United States of America. This is going to be the first exhibition of Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts outside Bangladesh.

We are deeply indebted to Gandhi Memorial Center for graciously letting us use their premises for our humble effort.

We thank you all for joining us this afternoon.

Nilu Rowshon Murshed
Chairperson,
Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts



Jamal Ahmed, a leading contemporary painter in South Asia, depicts shimmering, mirage-like imagery from his native Bangladesh. Nostalgic and serene depictions of local women, birds, and horses often take on symbolic or mythical connotations. Ahmed studied art in Poland and Japan before returning to Bangladesh. He was among the first artists in the country to adopt acrylic paint in the mid-1980s. He received an honorable mention at the 10th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh in 2001. In 2019, Ahmed was awarded the second-highest civilian award in Bangladesh, the Ekushey Padak. A professor of art at the University of Dhaka, Ahmed continues to influence the local art scene.



Group of pigeon I, Mix media on canvas, 32x42in, 2022



Mother & Child, Acrylic on canvas, 36x48in, 2022



Power of energy, Acrylic on canvas, 36x28in, 2022



Going home I, Mix media on paper, 20x30in, 2022



Family I, Acrylic on canvas, 32x42in, 2022



Beauty in the river III, Mix media on paper, 30x20in, 2022



Beauty in the river II, Mix media on paper, 30x20in, 2022



Beauty in the river I, Acrylic on canvas, 32x42in, 2022



Buriganga river II, Acrylic on canvas, 32x42in, 2022



Kanak Chanpa Chakma is one of Bangladesh's most significant and well-known visual artists. She is the recipient of numerous International awards. She was born in Rangamati's hill tracts and was brought up in an indigenous community. Her works strongly focus on presenting the wonderful essence of indigenous people. She tries to reveal their untold stories through her paintings alongside presenting the beauty and colours of their festivals, rituals and culture through her works. Kanak's paintings also introduce her viewers to Buddha's philosophy. Her works often prioritize the difficulties of women who struggle for their rights and participation in families and societies. She paints in oil, acrylic, charcoal and mixed media and uses bold

strokes to create large paintings. Her paintings are well-known internationally and can be found in many museums including Bangladesh Museum, Bhutan Museum, Liberation War Museum alongside many private collections and corporate offices. She is currently the founder of Shako Women Artists' Association and the president of Ethnic Artists' Foundation of Bangladesh. She is an inspiration to many young indigenous artists who follow her footsteps. Alongside painting, she also supports and works for the welfare autistic children and raises awareness to provide help for street animals.



Desires in the sky, Acrylic on canvas, 36X48in, 2022



Shining in the lights, Acrylic on canvas, 24X30in, 2022



Nature's Sound, Acrylic on canvas, 24X30in, 2022



Breath of Spring, Acrylic on canvas, 24X24 in, 2022



In the morning Light, Acrylic on canvas, 24X24 in, 2022



The Earth, Acrylic on canvas, 20X48 in, 2022



Anthem of the Earth, Acrylic on canvas, 24X48 in, 2022



A Poetic Evening, Acrylic on canvas, 18X18 in, 2022



Preparing herself for dance, Acrylic on canvas, 18X18 in, 2022



Friendship, Acrylic on canvas, 48X48 in, 2022

In the alluvial plains of Bangladesh, three mighty rivers come down from the Himalayas and the confluence forms a delta plain with lush green vegetation, crisscrossed by smaller rivers. Here, nature is mellow and here poets, bards and artists flourished since history began. East of the country there are rolling hills that form a natural barrier between south and south east Asia. These hills have indigenous groups people with unique culture and tradition. Here also, music, poetry and artworks have flourished over hundreds of years, protected by the terrain.

One such artist is Jamal Ahmed. Jamal's paintings are about the people whose lives weave around the rivers. Some live on the river, some on its banks. They draw their sustenance from the river, their livelihood depending on what it provides generously. They catch fish in the rivers, swim and bathe in the rivers and go places in their boats. He has captured images from their lives in acrylic on canvas, which he uses in his own way. He also paints nature in birds and animals. Pigeons are his favorite. His subject also includes people in the street, teashops and even someone with an interesting face. His landscapes have also drawn accolades from far corners of the world. He has won the second highest civil award of the country for his contribution to art.

Another such artist is Kanak Chanpa Chakma, raised in the highlands of southeast Bangladesh. She belongs to Chakma ethnic community. Her paintings are unique in nature as she draws inspiration from her ethnic background. She uses vibrant colors in semi-abstract form to portray the untold stories of this indigenous people particularly women, who are often deprived of their rights. Her paintings tell the tales of their everyday lives-sorrow and struggles as well as depict the colorful festivals, rituals, clothing and jewelry. They also display the undulating green hills and magnificent blue water of the lake.. Her paintings also highlight the teachings of Buddha through shimmering images of Buddhist temples as well as Buddha himself. She works mostly in acrylic, oil, charcoal and mixed media. Away from work, she supports the welfare of the autistic children and provides help for abandoned street animals.

This is our story, the story of rivers and hills, of people who live there, in different colors on canvas.

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