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From Fri, 6 Jul to Tue, 17 Jul at La Galerie

Golam Mohammed Joarder

রূপসী বাংলা / Ruposhi Bangla (The Beauteous Bengal)

- Painting Exhibition

Third solo
Golam Mohammed Joarder, who holds a BFA from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka and has two published novels under his illustrious belt, found the ‘nature’ as his muse for this painting exhibition titled রূপসী বাংলা / Ruposhi Bangla (The Beauteous Bengal).

The ‘nature’ in his paintings, he states, consists of man and man’s circumstances. To him these two elements render as imaginal as well as abstract in composition. Joarder prefers the abstractionism, as to him the concrete form is 2-dimensional — either true or fake. The abstractionism, however, is open-ended, interpretable to the observer — one either understands a great deal from it or not. Joarder keeps that observer-to-be in his mind. His canvasses thus invite colours that are, by his own account, gravitative.
On Sat, 12 Jul at 7 pm at Auditorium Nouvelle Vague

Monjurul Haque

ভাবনগর / Bhabnagor (Mystic Realm)

● Film Screening and Discussion

Various artists
Almost two hundred years ago, Lalon started arranging congregations, known as সাধু সঙ্গ / Shadhu Shongo (In the Company of Saints), at Chheuria, Kushtia. He invited bauls, minstrels and mystics to this consecrated congregation to share and exchange understandings and views. This grew into a tradition with formal rituals and to this day, Lalon devotees — spanning multiple generations — continue arranging such ‘Shadhu Shongo’.

Directed by Monjurul Haque, the 2-hour documentary film ‘ভাবনগর / Bhabnagor (Mystic Realm)’ ethnographically documents the entirety of this practice. Being in the making for more than thirteen years, from 2004 to 2017, the documentary observed numerous ‘Shadhu Shongo’ and brought together live recordings of Baul songs performed during the observances as well as thoughts and views of the devotees. Now an independent film-maker, Haque previously worked as an editor and cinematographer with the renowned film-maker Tareque Masud.

A discussion with the director will follow the film screening.
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From Fri, 20 Jul to Tue, 31 Jul at La Galerie

Halimul Islam Khokon

Portrait of an Artist

Painting Exhibition

Fifth solo
Halimul Islam Khokon is a seasoned ceramic artist who earned his MFA from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka and studied in Japan under the supervision of Prof. Ryoji Koie, who is revered as one of the great masters of Japanese ceramics. After participating in more than 40 group exhibitions and four solo exhibitions, Khokon, now an enthusiastic painter, will present 40 paintings in this exhibition titled ‘Portrait of an Artist’.

These paintings — which can be categorised as experimental abstract art, take encouragement from his well-developed ceramicist artistry, which in itself takes inspiration from the Bangladeshi culture, tradition and history. The paintings also depict primitive cave art forms and different textural abstract forms. Khokon often focuses on the power of animal figures and shapes, or, among other things, brings patterns from moss-covered as well as paint-peeled walls or from glittering aqueous shapes.
Renoir Film Club Film Show
At Auditorium Nouvelle Vague

Sat, 21 Jul at 6 pm
Hippocrate (2014)
*Hippocrates: Diary of a French Doctor*
Director: Thomas Lilti
*CÉSAR 2015* 1h 42min DRAMA PG

Sat, 4 Aug at 6 pm
Les garçons et Guillaume, à table ! (2013)
*Me, Myself and Mum*
Director: Guillaume Gallienne
*CÉSAR 2014* 1h 25min COMEDY PG-13

Fri, 10 Aug at 6 pm
L’exercice de l’État (2014)
*The Minister*
Director: Pierre Schoeller
*CÉSAR 2012* 1h 55min DRAMA PG-13

Fri, 17 Aug at 5.30 pm
La vie et rien d’autre (1989)
*Life and Nothing But*
Director: Bertrand Tavernier
*CÉSAR 1990* 2h 15min DRAMA, WAR PG

Sat, 1 Sep at 6 pm
Suzanne (2013)
Director: Katell Quillévéré
*CÉSAR 2014* 1h 34min DRAMA G

Fri, 14 Sep at 5.30 pm
Séraphine (2008)
Director: Martin Provost
*CÉSAR 2009* 2h 5min BIOGRAPHY, DRAMA PG

Fri, 28 Sep at 5.30 pm
120 battements par minute (2017)
*BPM (Beats Per Minute)*
Director: Robin Campillo
*CÉSAR 2018* 2h 23min DRAMA, HISTORY R

Viewer discretion is advised. MPAA ratings (or the equivalent) collected from IMDb.com, Inc. are denoted in the schedule. The ratings are: G (General Audiences), PG (Parental Guidance Suggested), PG-13 (Parents Strongly Cautioned), R (Restricted), NR (Not Rated), and UR (Unrated). Organised with the support from Institut Français. The timetable is subject to change at short notice.
From Fri, 27 Jul to Sat, 11 Aug at Galerie Zoom

Group of Nine Artists

প্রথম পর্ব / Prothom Parbo
(The First Chapter)

Painting Exhibition

Group
The participants of this group art exhibition are students of fine arts at the University of Development Alternative (UODA). The media used for realising the artworks were not restricted to conventional materials and most of the works has their bases in nature. Though these nine budding artists are exhibiting as a group, their styles and interpretation of artistic imagination are unique to each of them. Perhaps as a result of collaborating in several group art exhibitions, art camps and workshops, they have assuredly garnered a beautiful understanding of colours, forms and media distinguishable from their peers.

The participating artists are: Agoy Paul, Diptha Modak, Md. Faijul Islam, Nafisa Hossin Peo, Nasrin Zahan Onika, Saiful Islam, Sheikh Sarmina Mannan, Sumaiya Sharmin, and Trisha Ferdoushi.
On Sat, 28 Jul at 6.30 pm at Auditorium Nouvelle Vague

S. M. Kamrul Ahsan Lenin

গ্রাণ / Ghraan (The Smell)

Film Screening

Various artists

Lenin’s debut film, a 30-min short, titled ‘গ্রান (The Smell)’ (2016) will be screened on 28 July 2018 at Alliance Française de Dhaka’s Auditorium Nouvelle Vague. It earned the Best Short Film award at the 41st Bangladesh National Film Awards. The film stars Tauquir Ahmed, Saberi Alam, Fazlur Rahman Babu, among others.
From Fri, 3 Aug to Fri, 10 Aug at La Galerie

Dr Sajid Bin Doza

*Silent Expression*

- Pen-and-ink Exhibition

Fifth solo
Bangladesh is the house of the world’s largest legislative complex and it was designed by the eminent American architect Louis Kahn. Influenced by ancient ruins, Kahn created a style that was monumental and monolithic; his heavy buildings do not hide their weight, their materials, or the way they are assembled. One of the most influential architects of the 20th century, Kahn’s works are considered as monumental beyond modernism.

The exhibition by Dr Sajid Bin Doza titled ‘Silent Expression’ reasserts the vastness and hugeness of this complex and how it exudes its architectural beauty. The drawing technique employed for the artworks in this exhibition is experimental. To convey the magnitude of the structure, Dr Doza chose to express his thoughts using pen and ink on handmade paper. There are also some uses of soft colours to view and contemplate the architecture in a surreal background. This is Dr Doza’s fifth solo.
From Fri, 31 Aug to Fri, 14 Sep at La Galerie

Kazi Sayed Ahmed

Surface as Symbol

Art Exhibition

Seventh solo
Kazi Sayed Ahmed has always been infatuated with extraneous materials. As an artist seeking to inscribe new meaning into the surface, he has developed a signature stratagem of employing jute hessian to refer back to ‘life’. Without resorting to verisimilitude, he is now able to align the painted space with the space that lies outside.

At one point in his life, Ahmed explored the coexistence of representational elements and evacuated the surface area of the painting. If he showed an apparent allegiance to academic realism in his representation of the real elements, the readers should be aware that the same artist treated the surface as a positive field of vision, which is considered as negative space in the academia. Space is usually considered neutral, but at the behest of this young painter, the same element has created an opportunity to render it as neural. Though as an artist, Ahmed seems to avoid the extremes of expressive potentials, he always does settle for a middle ground.

Over the last five years or so, he has moved on to a higher plain — he is now inclined to make the best use of his arsenal. His ‘surface’ now appears as if it is the ‘field of action’, rather than vision/visualisation. Articulating their distance from the reality and lived experience, his surfaces are more layered, and are freighted as symbols of lost time and of disappearing nature.
From Fri, 7 Sep to Sat, 8 Sep at Auditorium Nouvelle Vague

Dhaka University Film Society

10th International Inter-University Short Film Festival

Various contributors
Organised by Dhaka University Film Society (DUFS), International Inter-University Short Film Festival (IIUSFF) is a festival to promote and inspire the work of university-going film-makers with the slogan ‘Take Your Camera, Frame Your Dream’. IIUSFF started its journey in 2007 with the goal to provide a platform for the young and talented student film-makers in Bangladesh and overseas to showcase their talent. Over the years, IIUSFF has developed into a cross-cultural platform to portray the different styles and dimensions of young film-makers throughout the world with diverse interest and practices of film-making.

Along with awarding the ‘Zahir Raihan Best Short Award’ and ‘Tareque Masud Best Emerging Director Award’, the 10th edition of this festival will host a talent campus session as well as a screening of the top 50 short films.
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From Thu, 20 Sep to Fri, 5 Oct at La Galerie

Nasir Ali Mamun

S. M. Sultan — The Cosmic Journey of a Fugitive

Photography Exhibition

Fifty-eighth solo
Over the span of a decade, Nasir Ali Mamun recorded the one-man journey of the ‘fugitive’ and bohemian painter S. M. Sultan — his pathos, darkness and struggle as he went about recreating on giant canvasses the essence of human spirit. Mamun’s camera chronicled Sultan’s closeness to the common people and how he spoke for the people who had toiled through ages for the advancement of human civilisation. A recluse in love with nature, Sultan’s canvasses as well as surroundings inhered animals, birds and plants that he greatly cared for. Through these photographs Mamun tried to immortalise that inner spirit of Sultan who adroitly shunned publicity and lived hermetically at his native village in Narail, revealing many hidden and obscure faces of the master painter’s cosmic journey.

Dedicated to Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, the exhibition titled ‘S. M. Sultan — The Cosmic Journey of a Fugitive’ will showcase these historic and iconic photographs.
This translation from French to Bangla was made during the Francophonie week — without the help of a dictionary and within a period of two hours. The version here is slightly edited.

Proma Rubaya Shehreen Ado B2.1 B/D

Le petit prince s’en fut revoir les roses.
– Vous n’êtes pas du tout semblables à ma rose, vous n’êtes rien encore, leur dit-il. Personne ne vous a apprivoisées et vous n’avez apprivoisé personne. Vous êtes comme était mon renard. Ce n’était qu’un renard semblable à cent mille autres. Mais j’en ai fait mon ami, et il est maintenant unique au monde.

Et les roses étaient bien gênées.

– Vous êtes belles, mais vous êtes vides, leur dit-il encore. On ne peut pas mourir pour vous. Bien sûr, ma rose à moi, un passant ordinaire croirait qu’elle vous ressemble. Mais à elle seule elle est plus importante que vous toutes, puisque c’est elle que j’ai arrosée. Puisque c’est elle que j’ai mise sous globe. Puisque c’est elle que j’ai abritée par le paravent. Puisque c’est elle dont j’ai tué leschenilles (sauf les deux ou trois pour les papillons). Puisque c’est elle que j’ai écoutée se plaindre, ou se vanter, ou même quelquefois se taire. Puisque c’est ma rose.

Et il revint vers le renard :
– Adieu, dit-il...
– Adieu, dit le renard. Voici mon secret. Il est très simple :
On ne voit bien qu’avec le cœur. L’essentiel est invisible pour les yeux.
– L’essentiel est invisible pour les yeux, répéta le petit prince, afin de se souvenir.
– C’est le temps que tu as perdu pour ta rose qui fait ta rose si importante.
– C’est le temps que j’ai perdu pour ma rose... fit le petit prince, afin de se souvenir.
– Les hommes ont oublié cette vérité, dit le
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renard. Mais tu ne dois pas l’oublier. Tu deviens responsable pour toujours de ce que tu as apprivoisé. Tu es responsable de ta rose...
– Je suis responsable de ma rose… répéta le petit prince, afin de se souvenir.

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Vintage

BOOK
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Virginie Despentes
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Virginie Despentes
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Éditions Grasset

BOOK

The Rock of Tanios
Amin Maalouf
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[ENGLISH]
★★★★☆
Abacus

BOOK

Malraux face aux jeunes: Mai 68, avant, après. Entretiens inédits
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[FRENCH]
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[ENGLISH]
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BOOK

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Arthur Rimbaud
Translated from the English by Dr Binoy Barman
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Panthojon
BOOK
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Bernard-Henri Lévy
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★★★☆☆
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Georges Bataille
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Penguin Books

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George Sand
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Bengali
★★★★☆
Alliance Française de Dhaka

BOOK
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★★★★☆
Gallimard Jeunesse
BOOK
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Damian Callan
ENGLISH
★★★★☆
Ilex Press

BOOK
Au creux de la main
Cédric Ramadier and Vincent Bourgeau
FRENCH
★★★★★
L’École des loisirs

DOCUMENTARY
La fille de Monaco
2008
Director: Anne Fontaine
DVD VIDEO
★★★★☆

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The author writes in ‘The Guardian’ (translated by Sophie Goodfellow): Rhapsodie Française — or French Rhapsody — was thought up as a global novel about the state of France today. I live in the same era as you; the news I see in newspapers, on TV or on the internet is the same as it is for you. You can’t always simply rely on make-believe to write a novel. Sometimes real life makes its way into the story – and from then on, it’s your job to come to terms with that ‘real life’ because, whether you like it or not, it’s there.

I’m now into my 40s. I’ve always lived in France, I can speak of it as my country. In many ways, it is very similar to the country I remember as a child, and in others, very different. A lot has changed. Time has sped up and the world has become faster. The advent of the internet changed the game. Problems in far off countries have become ours. The economy is now global. It’s rare to have a career for life in the same sector. More than half of all marriages end in divorce after just 10 years. You no longer meet girls in cafes, you make a profile on a dating app. Politicians, both on the left and the right, have never been more unpopular, while extremist and nationalist sentiment has never felt more pronounced. I’m not judging this era. I’m simply noting.

My country is probably not so far from your own. The United Kingdom and the United States are going through the same change. Does this worry you? Me too. Do you nonetheless remain optimistic? Me too. Is it possible to talk about all this in the space of a novel? Yes, I believe so. Seriously, but in a light-hearted way? Yes, I believe that too. One can be profound but still keep one’s sense of humour, and this is the idea behind French Rhapsody. (Abridged)
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Snaps
Events in the last three months, view full sets at flickr.com/afdhaka

Fri, 6 Apr
at Jardin de France
Manzurul
Islam Khan
Album Release

Fri, 13 Apr
at La Galerie
Iskindar
Mirza
*Illusion of Colour*
Painting Exhibition
Thu, 19 Apr
at La Galerie
Gilles de Talhouët et al.

Tagore: A Musical Conversation
Music and Poetry Performance

Fri, 20 Apr
at Auditorium Nouvelle Vague
Prof. Dr Mahmud Shah Qureshi
Book Launch
Tue, 24 Apr
at Galerie Zoom
Nazir Hossain
*Boishakh in the Land of Tiger*
Pattachitra Exhibition

Fri, 4 May
at La Galerie
Kuntal Barai
*Displaced in Dhaka*
Art Exhibition

Fri, 11 May
at Galerie Zoom
Studio Shunno
*Apostrophe*
Print Exhibition
Fri, 25 May at La Galerie
Department of Architecture, BUET et al.
Archiprix Bangladesh Exhibition 2018
Architectural Exhibition

Tue, 26 Jun at La Galerie
Monjur Rashid
Narrative of Time
Painting Exhibition
Wed, 21 Jun at La Galerie
Fête de la musique
International Festival of Music
TCF and TEF

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