

PRESS RELEASE: 15 JULY, 2010

RE: Bangladeshi-American Artist Monica Jahan Bose's Solo Art Exhibition, 16-26 July, 2010

Bangladeshi-American artist Monica Jahan Bose's solo painting exhibition, titled "Open the Door," will be inaugurated on 16 July, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Dhaka Art Center. This eleven-day exhibition is being supported by the American Center of the US Embassy, Dhaka.

Dr. Dipu Moni, the Honorable Foreign Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, will be present as the Chief Guest to inaugurate the exhibition. Lauren Lovelace, Director of the American Center of the United States Embassy, Dhaka, will be present as a Special Guest. Eminent art critic Moinuddin Khaled will speak about the works in the exhibition.

Monica Jahan Bose is a Bengali artist based in the United States. She was born, educated, and raised abroad. She has been educated in the United States and India. She has purposefully studied a number of diverse disciplines, including fine arts, law, and mathematics. In the end, however, she has chosen fine arts as her profession and passion. When we stand before her paintings it is instantly obvious that Bose's decision to become an artist was not just haphazard but carefully deliberated. There is no doubt from looking at her work that Bose has thrown herself into her art in a serious and concentrated way. This is also evident when we review the list of important exhibitions in which she has participated.

Most of Bose's paintings are full of symbolic and direct references to Bangladesh and to Bengali culture and identity. The remaining aspect of her work deals with facets of daily life: the artist's own personal life, the way real life is affected by social or regional issues, and also the impact of global issues on everyday life. The arduous struggle that she and her family members have taken to move out of the shadows of prejudice and narrow-mindedness and towards a tolerant, inclusive worldview are also woven into her work -- sometimes through painted images and collage and sometimes directly with words. In her quest to express all these important ideas and concepts in her work, Bose has intentionally avoided the type of visual language with which we are familiar in the contemporary painting of Bangladesh. Instead, she has been forced to find and invent her own unique language appropriate for expressing her complex conceptual ideas and her multi-dimensional thought process. The language that Bose has charted out for herself rejects and is in stark contrast to the conventional artistic principles that are followed in Bangladesh, which usually fail to take into account the realities of today's life or the society we live in.

Monica Jahan Bose's unique work with its innovative style and rich, varied language will introduce a whole new vocabulary and dimension to the visual arts sphere in Bangladesh. It is with this belief that the Dhaka Art Center has decided to host a solo exhibition of Bose's inventive mixed-media paintings.

Ishrat Akhond, Director, Dhaka Art Center, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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The logo for Dhaka Art Center features the word "dhaka" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by "art center" in a similar font. The word "art" is enclosed within a circular orange shape.

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