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Drowning: Is there time for love?

Sheikh Arif Bulbon

Born in Britain to Bengali parents, Monica Jahan Bose has lived in England, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, USA and Japan. Now she has been living in Paris in France.

He family is both Hin-

make Bangla a national language in East Pakistan, before it became the independent country of Bangladesh.

Artist Monica Jahan Bose is not quite familiar in the art arena in Dhaka. Her first exhibition in Bangladesh titled 'Drown-

and objective painter. Her images throb with life, which are challenging and dramatic. These elements make her works seem a real part of the surroundings with all the conflicts and achievements. Her figures mentions at many untold sto-

mentalism, and protecting natural resources. Growing up in the West and in Asia and coming from a family that is both Muslim and Hindu and split between Bangladesh and West Bengal (India), I have always been intrigued and pained by the borders between us, whether geographic, religious, or linguistic.

My paintings are part autobiographical and part social and political commentary. Though I have spent most of my life away from Bangladesh, I retain a deep connection to my homeland and language, which is reflected in my recent work. This work confronts the dualities and displacement experienced by an immigrant."

"My paintings are symbolic narratives, embodying the fragmented nature of our contemporary world. My current work includes the Mother Tongue Series, the Water Series, and the Valentine's Day Series, which can be seen by clicking on the corresponding thumbnails under 'Portfolio,'" said Monica.

Present socio-economic and political conditions of Bangladesh are reflected in the works of Monica. Her artistic mind occupied with the people and their happiness, sorrows, satisfaction and visions - all are clearly projected in her artworks. Her works project development and progress as well.

An artist and activist, Monica has degree in art and law. Monica will return to Paris this month and return to Bangladesh end of this year.



Monica's artworks: (Clock-wise): Saree Blouse and Bridge (Acrylic and newspaper on canvas), Water 12 (Ganga, Padma, Reunion), Acrylic and crayon on canvas, Mother Tongue 4 (Februray/Homeland), Acrylic on canvas and Valentine's Day 4 (Seeking), Acrylic and newspaper on canvas

du (her father's side) and Muslim (her mother's side) and is divided between Bangladesh and West Bengal in India, giving her a special perspective on religious and geographic divisions. Her husband is American and his parents are Catholic and Protestant. Monica's parents were both political activists and fought to

ing: Is there time for Love? will be wrapped up today at the La Galerie of the Alliance Francaise at Dhanmondi in the capital.

The two-week exhibition was inaugurated by Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, while Agriculture Minister Matiya Chowdhury was also present as special guest on the occasion.

Monica is a figurative

and sufferings. Her thought process is seemingly expressive and has a touch of meditation.

While mentioning about herself Monica said, "I am both an artist and an activist, deeply committed to women's issues and the environment. My paintings and my activism address women's rights, women's literacy, the rise of religious funda-