



Stories

SHAHANOR MAMUN

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22nd November till 7th December 2019

The logo for galleri KAYA features the word "galleri" in a lowercase, grey, sans-serif font, followed by "KAYA" in a bold, uppercase, grey, sans-serif font. A small red square is positioned above the dot of the "i" in "galleri". Below the main text, the phrase "a contemporary art center" is written in a smaller, lowercase, grey, sans-serif font.

galleri KAYA
a contemporary art center

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Contact: Galleri Kaya House 20 Road 16 Sector 4 Uttara
Dhaka 1230 Bangladesh.

Mobile: +88 01752 684 900 Tel: 88-02- 58956902

E-mail gallkaya@gmail.com

 www.facebook.com/gallerikaya

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Voyage of a naturist artist

Takir Hossain

Shahanoor Mamun, considered as one of the most talented watercolorist in the country, has a great zeal for depicting the splendor of nature, six seasons of the country, monsoon and its intrinsic beauty, placid environment, riverine life, flora and fauna, dense foliage, cloudy skies, hilly areas along the banks of Sangu river, green ambiance of Sutai river which extends from Brahmaputra river, sights of Sundarbans mangrove forest and more. He draws rural, urban, semi-urban and old parts of the city where the protagonists are very much connected with the localities. He believes in a great philosophy, that we are all part of nature, but some of us intimately studies nature with intense passion.

The exhibition's artworks were completed from October 2017 to October 2019. During the last two years, Mamun frequently went outdoors towards different locations in the country. He visited the spots first and then went off to draw their surroundings. He does not believe in replicating photographs. Rather he tries to feel the ambiances in their true essence from the core of his heart, a desire which has further motivated him to immerse himself with the ambiance of nature. At the show, the watercolorist has proved his dexterity in portraying the details of light and shadow while reflecting the 'nature at work' through torrential rain, untainted landscape, rivers with boats and quiet surrounding.

Undoubtedly, Mamun is a nature watercolorist. Besides watercolor, the artist also uses ink, charcoal, dry pastel, Chinese ink and pen. At the show titled "Stories", some new subjects have introduced a novel dimension where spectators would see the relationship of mother-son, a lying dog, a cat with a teen girl, the splendor of the monsoon. There are two of his works where

Puja's festivities have also been vibrantly projected. He has dexterously demonstrated the eye-catching beauty of Krishnachura flower and Chandra Prabha. Previously he had done many works on the flowers, but the flowers of the current show has been done with the technique of using loose brush and not going to the details, particularly when it comes to the leaves and petals. He has done a little bit of experiment since technique has got more focus than the subject. Most applications of his watercolor techniques involve – the blooming watercolor method, plein air and flat wash. He has also frequently used the glazing technique. This is a watercolor technique similar to a wash and the artist has used a thin, luminous color over dry existing washes. It can be clearly perceived that Mamun has confidently applied a single loose or several loose strokes and then left them for drying.

At the show, isolation and tranquility are two vital components in Mamun's artworks. Mystifying light is really a prominent aspect in his watercolors, and the artist also wants to create a perplexing setting. Most of his figures have been created as unique characters and one can easily realize the distinctive appeal of the figures. His themes and approaches are strongly linked to physiological experiments. He has also added illusion and emotion to his works. At the show, black is the predominant aspect in most of his watercolors and drawing-based works. It has been easily comprehended that the artist has experimented with black and its mysterious tones, tenors and layers of shades. Like figures and objects, most of his colors look vibrant and eloquent. Many of his works bear indications of a great experiment done with this particular color. He has tried to grasp the beauty of the black. When Mamun seeks to portray the pain and agony or the gloominess of the subject, he bends towards the color and thus successfully draws the image.

At the show, Mamun has also portrayed Old Dhaka's socio-economical and cultural structures, urban hustle and bustle, architectural and structural improvements. Scrupulous depictions of Showarighat, Tati Bazaar, Shakhari Bazaar and their

streets overwhelmed with rush hours, rain drenched outlines and among others the riverine view of the Buriganga are evident in his works. He portrays landscapes in a vital synchronization in themselves.

In his career, Mamun has developed an individual style chiefly for the watercolor medium. He prefers the medium firstly and foremostly for its articulateness. The medium's lucidity gives him a liberty to impart his creativity smoothly. Many of his watercolors have also been done with agile brushstrokes. He possesses the right amount of insistence and potentials necessary for transforming visuals of the world into heart-rending imagery. He draws pleasure from watercolor which enables him to interpret his inner thriving.

Unquestionably, Mamun is a workaholic painter. Over the course of time, he has been tirelessly experimenting with subjects, spaces, tones and hues. The painter always feels being driven to explore something novel and refreshing. It breaks monotony for him and he believes art can be enriched through repeated changing of subjects. To him each subject has a special feature, which demonstrates individual light, tone and space. He really gets inspiration and muses on the feelings imbued with the world of nature. The poetry in nature produces a surge of feelings in him, enabling him to hear and interpret the sounds, colors and rhythms around him.

Tong shop (Rangamati) 38 x 56cm
watercolor on paper 2019





Life in a rainy day 74 x 56cm watercolor on paper 2019

City life 2 76 x 56cm watercolor on paper 2019

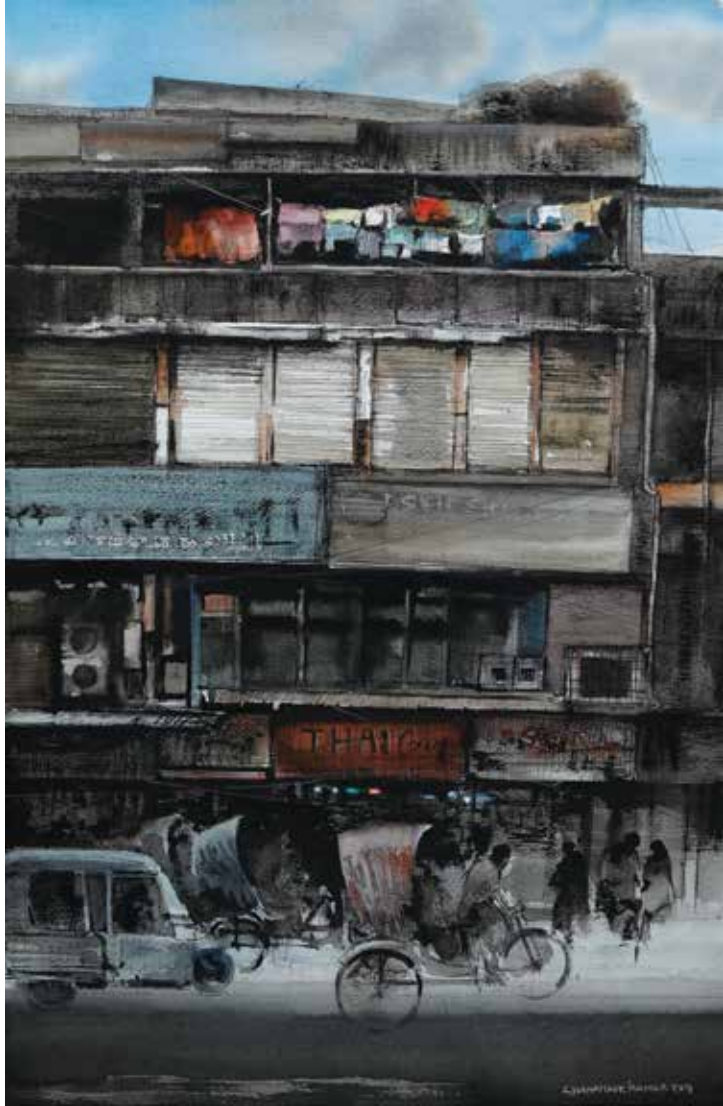




Old Dhaka 104 x 58cm
watercolor on paper 2019

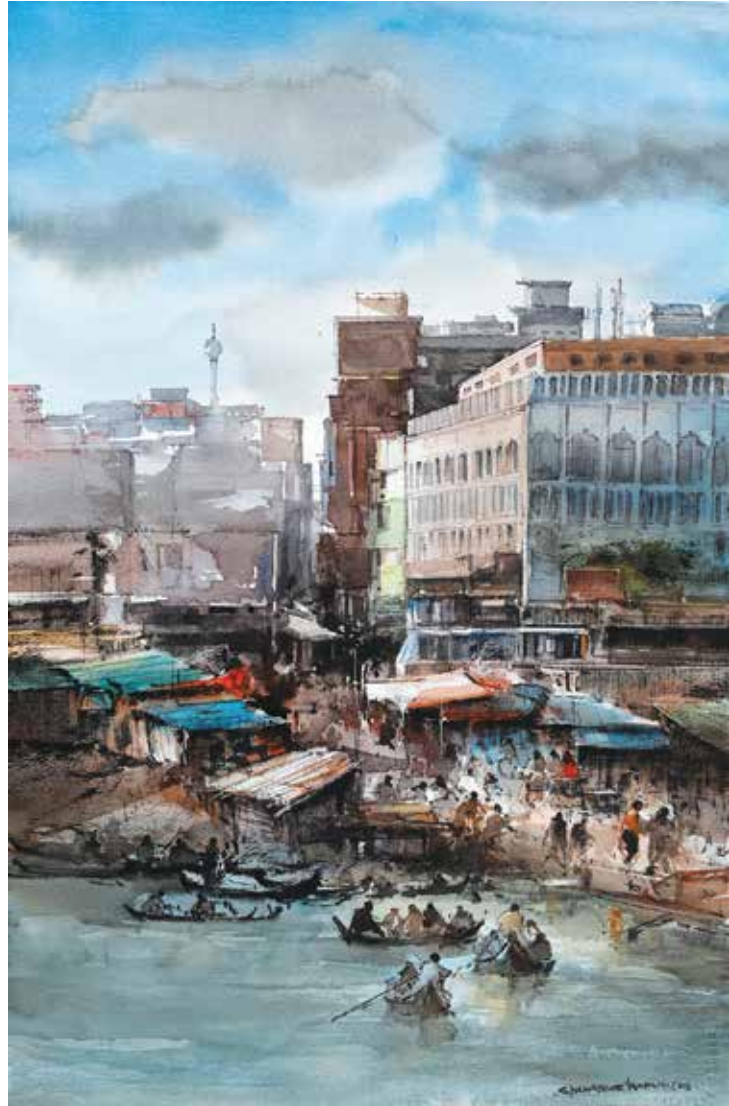
Village market 54 x 38cm watercolor on paper 2019





City life 58 x 38cm watercolor on paper 2019

In the bank of Buriganga 56 x 38cm watercolor on paper 2019





Shankharibazar 38 x 54cm watercolor on paper 2019

Tantibazar lane 54 x 38cm watercolor on paper 2019





City in rain 93 x 33cm watercolor on paper 2019



Mangrove 2 39 x 54cm watercolor on paper 2019

Husking 54 x 38cm watercolor on paper 2018





Sunset in the wood 56 x 36cm
watercolor on paper 2018

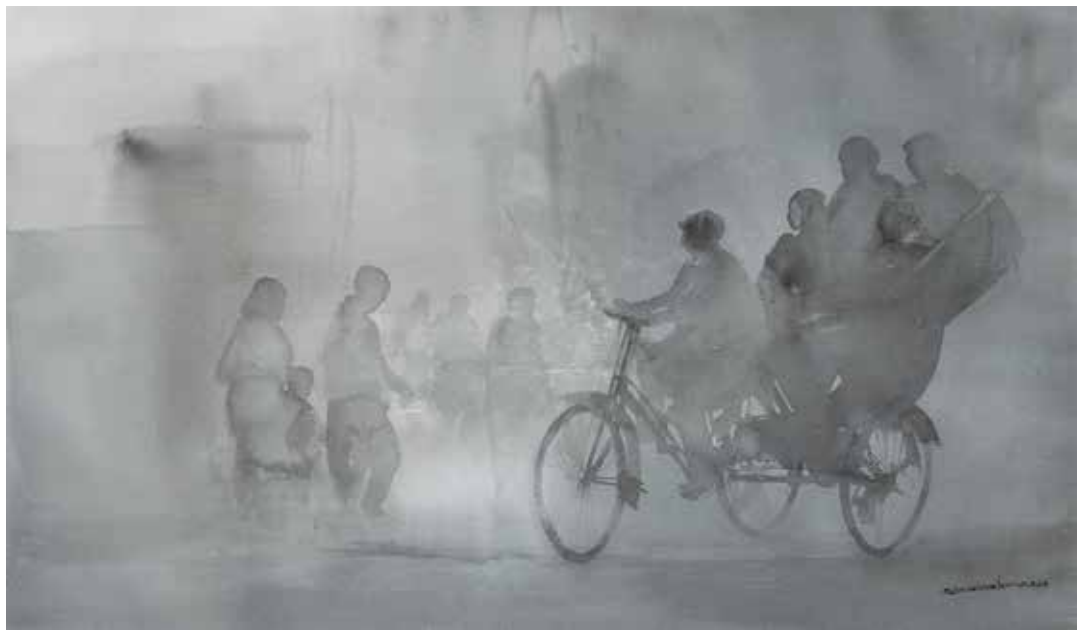
Cerulean in my Autumn 67 x 43cm
watercolor on paper 2019





Emerging morning 45 x 63cm watercolor on paper 2019

Vail of nature 74 x 43cm watercolor on paper 2019





Tea stall 3 42 x 28cm ink & charcoal on paper 2019



Tea stall 2 42 x 28cm ink & charcoal on paper 2019



Vacant & pensive 63 x 49cm charcoal on paper 2019

Mother & child 44 x 37cm
charcoal on paper 2019





Abundance of nature 66 x 46cm
watercolor on paper 2018

View from the valley (Sajek) 64 x 46cm
watercolor on paper 2018





Crossing the river 54 x 38cm
watercolor & charcoal on paper 2019

Rain drenched 56 x 38cm
watercolor on paper 2019





Tea stall 4 76 x 56cm watercolor on paper 2019

Mangrove 1 39 x 54cm watercolor on paper 2019





Smiling blossom 54 x 38cm
charcoal & pastel on paper 2019

Shades of hope 54 x 38cm
charcoal & pastel on paper 2019





Shrouded in the mist 45 x 64cm
watercolor on paper 2019

Buriganga river 75 x 50cm
watercolor on paper 2018





Crossing the river 2 76 x 56cm
watercolor on paper 2019

Autumn 56 x 40cm watercolor on paper 2018





Day break in old Dhaka 52 x 50cm
watercolor on paper 2019

Horizon in the twilight 48 x 45cm
watercolor on paper 2019





Rainy day 54 x 50cm watercolor on paper 2019

Home coming 52 x 50cm watercolor on paper 2019





In peace 44 x 37cm charcoal on paper 2019

The watch 44 x 37cm charcoal on paper 2019





Childhood memory 62 x 56cm watercolor on paper 2019

Devi 54 x 50cm watercolor on paper 2019





In the dusk 39 x 54cm watercolor on paper 2019

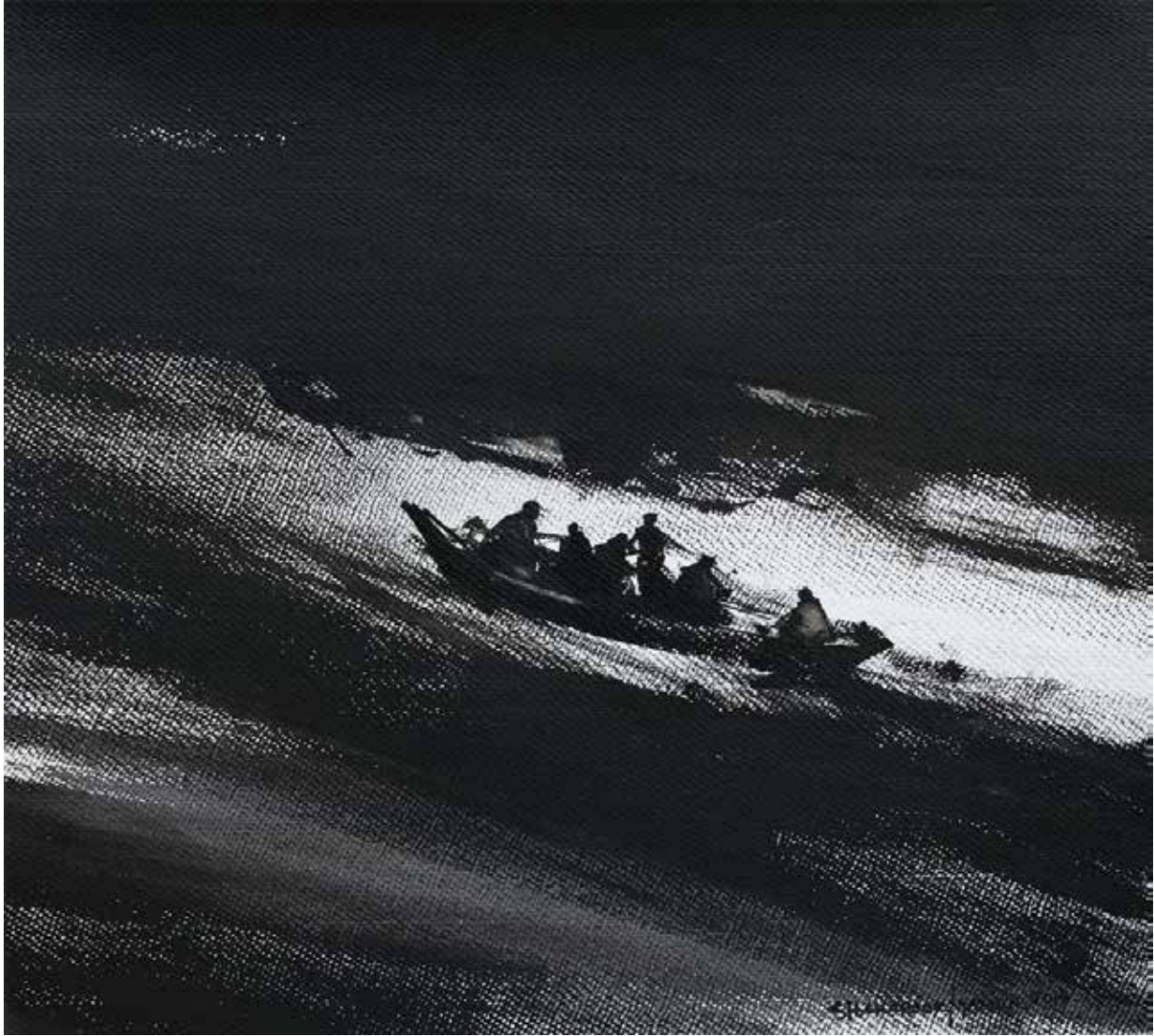
Riverbank 38 x 56cm watercolor on paper 2019

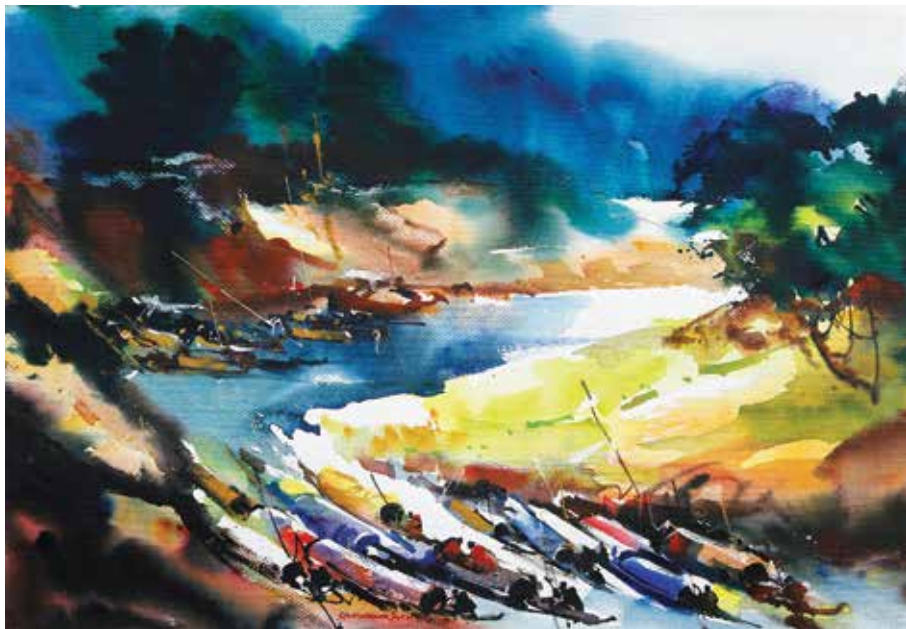




Kalbaishakhi (over sea) 52 x 50cm
watercolor on paper 2019

Storm 50 x 46cm watercolor on paper 2019





Shangu river 78 x 56cm watercolor on paper 2019

Joy 75 x 43cm
watercolor on paper 2019



Burst of Spring 76 x 56cm watercolor on paper 2019





Spring 45 x 63cm watercolor on paper 2019

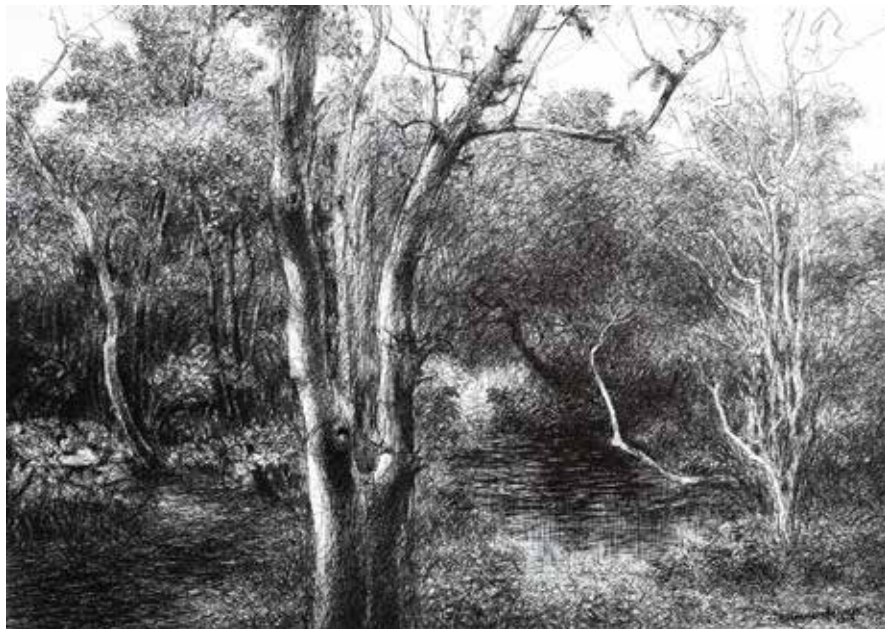
Shutia river 45 x 64cm ink pen on paper 2018





Riverbank of shangu 65 x 38cm ink pen on paper 2018

Dusk 52 x 38cm ink pen on paper 2019





View from my home 73 x 45cm
ink pen on paper 2019

On the roof of my house 58 x 38cm
ink pen on paper 2017



