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Breaking the confines of social discrimination

Installation exhibition at National Art Gallery
Staff Correspondent

A fortnight-long installation exhibition, titled “Khachar Bitor Auchin Wrishi” is on at the National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Jointly organised by the NGO Parittran and non-profit organisation Di+, the exhibition began on May 25.

The aim of the exhibition is to generate awareness in the Wrishi community of the country. At present, larger groups of Wrishis live in Khulna division and Dhaka city. Locally, they are known as muchi or chamar and historically they have been classified as lower caste. The exhibition showcases the cultural aspects of the community. Generating awareness against social discrimination is another intention of the exhibition.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promod Mankin inaugurated the exhibition. Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Itala Occhi and human rights activist Sultana Kamal were present as special guests at the inaugural programme.

Among others, Milan Das, executive director, Parittran and Laura Morelli, president, Di+ were present at the programme.

The exhibition is the brainchild of three Italian artists Laura Morelli, Jua Gargano and Giovanni Diffidenti. The gallery premise is being used for the installation. Fences have been put up at usually vacant spaces of the gallery, such as the entrance and windows -- giving the viewer the illusion of being in a cage.

Inside the cage or the gallery, artistes have used artworks and everyday items used by the Wrishi community as well as photographs [by Giovanni Diffidenti]. The installation is divided into two sections -- male and female.

As part of the campaign, street performances were also held prior to the exhibition.

The exhibition is open till June 8, everyday from 11am to 7pm (on Fridays from 3 pm to 8 pm).

The Xaverian Fathers, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Dalit Parishad are supporting the exhibition, with patronage from the Italian Embassy. Ogilvy and Mather Communications Pvt. Ltd. is the communications partner of the exhibition.



The installation features everyday items used by the Wrishi community. Photo Courtesy: Giovanni Diffidenti

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