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## art FARE

# A colourful homage

by SHAMIM AKHTER

To give credit to its long-standing services in the field of art in Pakistan, Kunj is hosting an exhibition of paintings by the students and teachers of the Institute of Arts and Design, the University of the Punjab, which will continue for one month.

Kunj gave its walls to senior artists from the Institute such as Zubeda Javed, Rahat Naveed Masud on the one hand, and on the other, invited young artists such as Shafaq Khalid, Mughees Riaz, Ali Azmat, Anila Ghulam Hussain, Iqbal Ahmed Khokhar, and Amjad Naem.

Zubeda Javed has recently retired from the Institute after putting in 36 years of service. She is commendable because despite her devotion to her teaching profession, she took time out to paint and establish her signature as an impressionist-cubistic landscape painter.

Rahat Masud is an artist of delicate thinking. Her canvases are marked with elegance ingrained in her character. Although she is known for her close-to-realistic figurative paintings, occasionally she paints landscapes and other concepts. Besides her figurative entrée at Kunj, she has presented her idea in a still-life with a new perception. A black square at the focal point is lit up by clay lamps at its foot. The



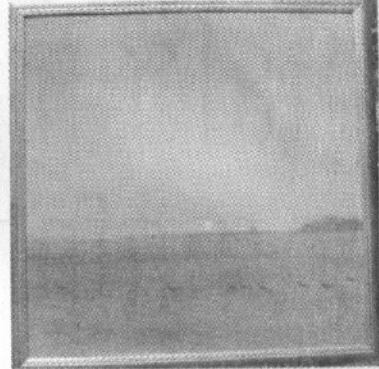
holder. She is an art teacher as well as a writer on art in Urdu for daily *Nawa-e-Waqt*. She has to her credit a long list of awards.

Iqbal Ahmed Khokhar holds a Masters in Fine Arts from the Institute (1998). He has been participating in group shows since 1998. He teaches Art and Design at the Chand Bagh School, Lahore.

Iqbal's landscapes stand close to those of Zubeda Javed in concept and technique. Iqbal is equally good with words and reading. For him life is a bitter experience and can be rightly portrayed through autumn manifestations.

audience with his choice of a crow on his canvas. A bird usually disliked became a hero on his canvas. But it was not only the crow that attracted the viewers to his displays, but also his composition and unusually pleasing palette. He chose the mundane clay water pots and an ignored bird by the artists and came up with unusual composition sensibility.

Mughees has given a new concept to still life. He did his MFA from the Institute in 1999. Two years later, Ejaz Galleries, Lahore, offered him its walls for a solo show in 2001. He has been participating in exhibitions every year since 1998 when he was not a graduate even. Mughees has to his credit National Excellence Award



women are confined in a room full of colours through bed-spread, flooring and eastern cushions. She divides her spaces skillfully. Her painting with two young women sitting on the floor shows her skills of composition and use of bright colours in a way that pleases the eye. Her bedspread portrays her ability to handle design. With streaks and squares of white she fights away the morbidity of the interior.

Shafaq did her Masters in Fine Arts from PU. Her participation in a group show at Co-opera, Lahore, in 2003, indicates that she has qualified recently. Her thesis work was exhibited at Anna Molka Art Gallery of Institute of Art and Design, University of the Punjab 2002. Kunj gives Shafaq her first exposure out of the Punjab. Currently she is teaching at her alma mater.

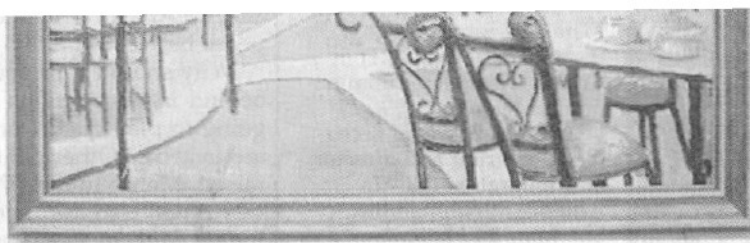
Ali Azmat is another familiar name in Karachi. Winner of National Excellence Award, he was introduced to the Karachi audience much earlier. He was first heard of at Canvas in a group of four show in 2001. The same year he participated in the Takhti exhibition at Galerie

masud on the one hand, and on the other, invited young artists such as Shafaq Khalid, Mughees Riaz, Ali Azmat, Anila Ghulam Hussain, Iqbal Ahmed Khokhar, and Amjad Naeem.

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Rahat Masud is an artist of delicate thinking. Her canvases are marked with elegance ingrained in her character. Although she is known for her close-to-realistic figurative paintings, occasionally she paints landscapes and other concepts. Besides her figurative entrée at Kunj, she has presented her idea in a still-life with a new perception. A black square at the focal point is lit up by clay lamps at its foot. The flames of the lamps elevate the painting from a still-life and relate a story of hope in the morbid times.

Young Anila Ghulam Hussain paints dreamy landscapes. She calls her renditions "dreams hidden in the recesses of my subconscious". She borrows colour concepts from nature. Currently working as a visiting lecturer at the Institute, Anila was throughout a first-position



holder. She is an art teacher as well as a writer on art in Urdu for daily *Nawa-e-Waqt*. She has to her credit a long list of awards.

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Amjad Naeem obtained his MFA degree from the Punjab University in 1999. For the past two years, Amjad has been teaching at Alhamra Arts Council in the evening shift. He has participated in group shows since 1993 when he took part in an exhibition of Young Artists. He also participated in National Exhibition 2003.

Another young artist, Mughees Riaz was known to the

MFA from the Institute in 1999. Two years later, Ejaz Galleries, Lahore, offered him its walls for a solo show in 2001. He has been participating in exhibitions every year since 1998 when he was not a graduate even. Mughees has to his credit National Excellence Award



Karachians through a group show held at Tariq Jay Art Gallery, Karachi, in 2002. He again appeared in Karachi at Canvas in 2003. He captured the

(Visual Art) 2003. Currently he is a visiting lecturer at his alma mater since 1999.

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floor shows her skills of composition and use of bright colours in a way that pleases the eye. Her bedspread portrays her ability to handle design. With streaks and squares of white she fights away the morbidity of the interior.

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Ali Azmat is another familiar name in Karachi. Winner of National Excellence Award, he was introduced to the Karachi audience much earlier. He was first heard of at Canvas in a group of four show in 2001. The same year he participated in the Takhti exhibition at Galerie Sadequain organised by Zahoor-ul-Akhlq Trust. He gained prominence when Tariq Jay Gallery, Karachi hosted three artists from Lahore including Ali Azmat in 2002.

A gold medalist from the University of the Punjab, Lahore, Ali's draughtsmanship is excellent, a hallmark of students who hail from backward cities compared to Lahore. ■