

ARTIST'S CORNER

SABRINA AFRIN

COVER ARTIST

What is your basic background (Do you go to school, where you do work/live, etc)?

I live in Dhaka, Bangladesh and I'm currently in my last semester of undergraduate studies at the Independent University, Bangladesh, majoring in Media and Communication.

When did you start your photography?

I started photography after getting my first smart phone in 2010, when I was in the 9th grade. I was always fascinated with nature but I'd shoot anything I thought looked interesting.

Did you attend schooling for it?

When I started I didn't know much about photography basics, and I still consider myself as a student of photography. I would just take photos in any way I wanted, with weird framing and no idea of the technicalities, just clicking as I see it! So I guess I learned from exploring and experimenting.

What opportunities or struggles have you had/faced to get where you are now?

Everyone goes through difficult times and sometimes it's hard for people to describe their struggle in words. When I was young, my mother passed away and my mental health deteriorated as I was too young to take care of myself. During that time, the only thing I used to do was take photos and manipulate them as an expression of my thoughts and feelings. I guess I was just trying to find some sanity in an insane world.

Where do you see yourself going from here?

Honestly, I haven't give much thought to this. I have plans regarding my academic and professional career but as for my art, I have always done it for the sake of itself so didn't actually give it a second thought.

What advice or message would you like to give future artists?

I believe that nobody can teach you how to become an artist or a photographer or anything else – they can only tell you the process of how they did it or share their journey. So for any future artists, I have but only one advice right now: “Be true to yourself. Remember there is no right or wrong; do it and see what happens. Salvador Dali once said ‘Have no fear of perfection – you will never reach it’ so keep trying and don't give up.”

What did you seek to portray with the cover photo?

I came up with this photo after watching a Spanish drama film called ‘The Sea Inside’ written and directed by Alejandro Amenábar, one of my most favorite directors. The film is based on the true story of a man who is bed ridden for nearly thirty years and seeks permission from the court to die. The close up cinematography, long shots and the aesthetics of Amenábar's film-making dragged me into the character's consciousness and feel his despair. This movie was an experience to me. I was thinking of the ocean so I used the blue color in the background and that figure lying in a desert represents the loneliness.

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