



THE MEANING OF DRAWING

Enayet Khan, 20 years old

Best known among his friends as 'Khan', Enayet learned to draw in his early childhood. *'I made my first saba-tula (portrait drawing) when I was 7 years old.'* *'For me, the meaning of drawing is my way to preserve memories. In that process, I am able to transform good and bad feelings through drawing.'* He said.

Enayet has a reserved character, he is generally shy conversing with strangers. *'When I was promoted from class 9 in Maungdaw Haairpara high school to class 10 in Howor Bill school in Myanmar, I had no friends there. The boys in the class did not mix with me because I was new. I felt lonely.'* One day he got caught drawing a portrait of the teacher in the middle of the class. The teacher quickly realized Enayet's artwork was very impressive, and everyone in the classroom was excited to see the portrait. *'After that day, most of the boys became my friends. They started to like my drawings and portraits.'* Enayet received an award for making a portrait of the head master of his high school.

Enayet normally employs acrylic paint for his artwork, but he also uses watercolour and enamel paint. White is his favorite color. *'White is the colour of simplicity. I like simplicity, that is why I wear white. If you see a person wearing white clothes, you will think positively of that person.'*

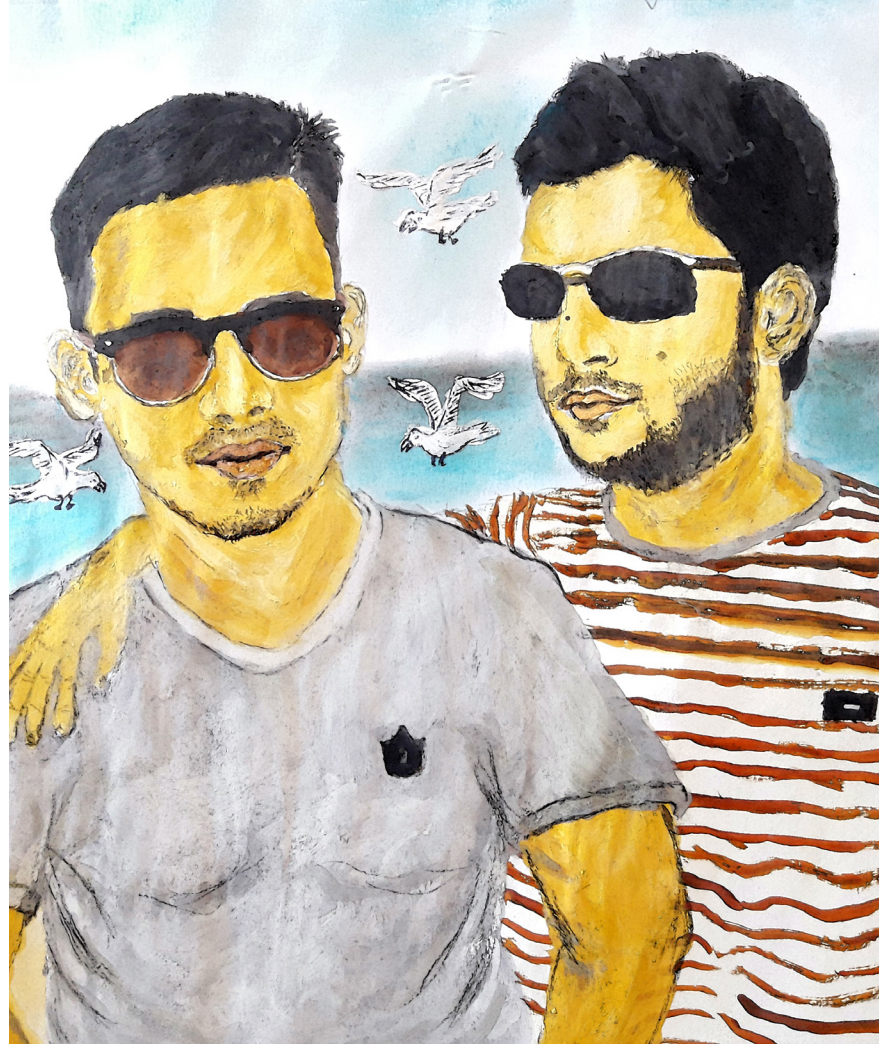
'When I make a portrait, I focus on the person's eyes. Because eyes are the most important thing. They tell everything.' Enayet likes to draw his dreams. Whenever he wakes up in the middle of the night and cannot fall asleep, he usually writes or draws impressions of his dreams. *'I like to draw my dreams, they are very interesting and most fascinating.'* *'My parents are very supportive, my mother is my favorite person because she inspires me a lot.'*

Enayet came to Bangladesh in September 2017. The elder among his five younger brothers and one sister, he lives with his family in the southern refugee camps near Teknaf. He earns some pocket money volunteering part-time in a national NGO.

'When I'm not working, I keep myself busy drawing and painting. I make paintings to cope with tension and stress'. Although drawing is his passion, he also likes watching movies on his mobile phone and reading story books. As a nature lover, whenever he has time, he climbs Shalbagan hilltop in Teknaf to watch the sunset. 'I enjoy the birds eye view of the nature all around, especially the sea in the distance.'

'I miss my life at Myanmar. I want to go back and study in a Myanmar school. Here in the camps there is only primary education, no scope for secondary education.' He added. *'If I was in Myanmar, I would be able to complete my studies.'* His desire is to study art. *'I want to be a great artist.'* Enayet said.

He is one of the first recipients of the young artists fellowship, a pilot project from the Cultural Memory Center nurturing the talent of Rohingya artists. He believes the CMC project is a great opportunity to practice art and to become a good artist. *'It's a good cultural education initiative for our younger generation.'* He proudly says. After seeing the CMC artefact collection, he got emotional reconnecting with his past. *'I like the miniature house models. We had exactly the same house in Maungdaw. My father was a professional carpenter in Myanmar. He built our own tatta ghor (wooden house).'*



Enayet and Aziz © Enayet Khan, 2020