

Khudiram Bose Central College
Department of English

Report on visit to an exhibition "Comics in Bengal" at Kolkata Center for Creativity

On 7th March 2024, the students of Semester 4 and Semester 6 along with the teachers of the English Department of Khudiram Bose Central College, visited an exhibition titled "Comics in Bengal". The exhibition was held at Kolkata Center for Creativity in collaboration with Comics Culture Collective. This was a month-long exhibition, first of its kind that focused on the evolution of Bengali comics from its inception in the 1920s to the present day. The English Honours students under the University of Calcutta (CBCS) has a paper named Popular Literature where students are taught the graphic novel Tintin in Tibet. Therefore, the objective of this visit was not just to academically connect the students to the curriculum but also help them widen their horizon in the hope that they would enjoy and learn from.

We reached the Center, KCC around 11:30am and were greeted by an architectural beauty, housing many floors of art and exhibitions along with a shop and café. All the visitors, after registration, moved to the second floor that showcased the exhibition. "Comics in Bengal".

We were welcomed by Ms. Srija and Mr. Swagata Dutta who volunteered to guide us and give a tour of the exhibition, for which we are extremely grateful.

The exhibition was divided into the following genres with displays of various comic posters that fit into it. The genres were:

- Examine, Experiment and Exhale
- Babel to Bengali found in Translation
- Comics, Campaigns and Commerce
- Faith and Flights of Fancy
- Heroes and Hero Worship
- Adept at Adaptation
- Fictionalizing History, Historicizing Fiction
- Murder, Mayhem and Menace
- Gags, Giggle, Guffaw and Glee
- Benign Beginnings
- Expeditions, Escapades and Excitement

Given the huge time span from 1920s to the present, the genres mentioned above were extremely detailed and thorough. What was very interesting to learn was that some of the comics popularized in the West, seemed to have been composed much earlier by the comic artists in Bengal. The use of comics in advertisement was my personal favorite section. It truly was a one-of-its kind exhibition as the curators had also displayed some of the original copies of the comics. From aliens and sci-fiction to historical figures, from translations and adaptations to simple humour, there was a magnificent display of works by legendary illustrators like Narayan Deb Nath, Prafulla Chandra Lahiri, Mayukh Chowdhury, Saila Chakraborty, Sufi, Pratul Bandopadhyay and Tushar Chatterjee. The curators must be applauded for attempting to bring together this vast collection especially from the aspect of academic research. A book corner was also set up by Starmark, that had only comics for sale. From Nonte Fonte to Asterix, from Tintin to Japanese Manga- all range and varieties of comics were available for sale.

The students seemed to thoroughly enjoy the exhibition, as they had many engaging questions and discussions with our guides regarding the different comic displays. The department intends to participate in many such exhibitions at KCC in the near future, that will help our students to learn and explore different genres of literature.

Rinjee Lama

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Head, Department of English



At the entrance of the Exhibition



A sample of the comics at display



A picture with our wonderful guides Mr. Swagata and Ms. Srija

KHUDIRAM BOSE CENTRAL COLLEGE			
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH			
NAMES OF STUDENTS VISITING "COMICS IN BENGAL" EXHIBITION ON 7th MARCH 2024			
SEMESTER 4			
1	ANINDITA KARAR	Anindita Karar	
2	ANKITA DAS	Ankita Das	
3	AVIK DUTTA	- AB -	
4	BARNALI SAHA DEY	Barnali Dey	
5	BOBY MALICK	- AB -	
6	CHANDRACHUR HOWLADER	- AB -	
7	DEBOSMITA S BHOWMICK	Debasmita Saha Bhowmick	
8	DEEPA MONDAL -	Deepa Mondal	
9	DIPSHA BANERJEE -	Dipsha Banerjee	
10	DONA ADHIKARY	Dona Adhikary	
11	JEET CHAKRBORTY	- AB -	
12	MAUSUMI DAS	Mausumi Das	
13	SUMEDHA GHOSH -	Sumedha Ghosh	
14	NEHA MALICK	Neha Mallick	
15	PALLAB KR PAUL	Pallab K.R. Paul	
16	PINKI HAIT	Pinki Hait	
17	POULAMI MONDAL	Poulami Mondal	
18	PRITAM GHOSH	Pritam Ghosh	
19	PRITI DAS NASUMDER	Priti Majumder	
20	RAHUL DAS	Rahul Das	
21	RAJASREE SAHA	Rajasree Saha	
22	RITIKA SHAW	Ritika Shaw	
23	SAMRIDDHI KAR	Samriddhi Kar	
24	SAPTAMI BOSE	Saptami Bose	
25	SAYANI MONDAL	- AB -	
26	SHRABANI SIKDAR	Shrabani Sikdar	
27	SOHAM BHATTACHARYA -	Soham Bhattacharya	
28	SORMILI CHAKRABORTY -	Sormili Chakraborty	
29	SOUMABHO MUKHERJEE -	Soumabho Mukherjee	
30	SUBHENDU RAHA	Subhendu Raha	
31	SWATI DAS -	Swati Das	
32	TANISA DAS	Tanisa Das	
SEMESTER 6			
1	ABHIJIT SAHA	Abhijit Saha	
2	BHASWAT DUTTA	Bhaswat Dutta	
3	EMAN GHOSH -	Eman Ghosh	
4	MONIKA CHAKRABORTY	- AB -	
5	PUJA DAS	Puja Das	
6	RIYA SEN	Riya Sen	
7	SUBHAJIT SAHA	Subhajit Saha	