

# HYPERALLERGIC



**ART**A Show of Luminous Paintings, Overshadowed by Crowded Curation

Tara Sabharwal can make objects float in the neither-here-nor-there ether.

Seph Rodney March 28, 2018



Tara Sabharwal, "Sparkle" (2014), etching ink and watercolor, 30 x 44 inches (all photos by Yao Zu Lu and courtesy the artist unless otherwise noted)

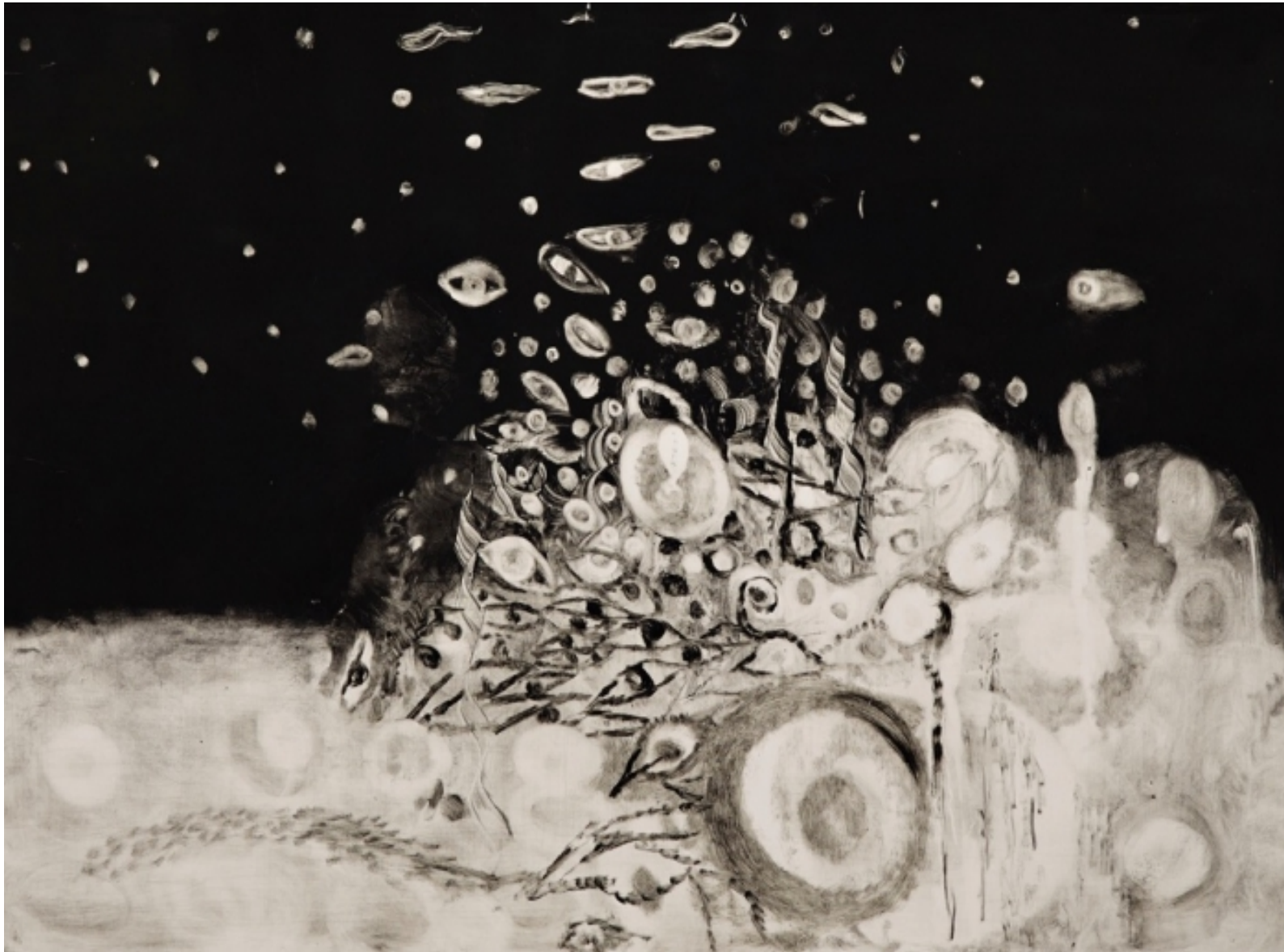
It doesn't take me long to be absorbed by several of the pieces in Tara Sabharwal's show at Wilmer Jennings gallery at Kenkeleba House. The artist, who was born in New Delhi and trained in Baroda, India and London, has a facility with a painterly abstraction that leans toward the decorative but doesn't ever fall all the way in. The works I gravitate toward began their lives as prints, made with oil-based etching inks, and then (after some rumination) Sabharwal subjected them to transparent washes of watercolor and opaque pastels. Her hybrid monoprint paintings are delicate and layered; she can make objects float in the neither-here-nor-there ether, or form effulgent cascades that might be microscopic views of plant cells, a golden beach at low tide, or the god-like torrent that impregnated Danaë — this is how “Sparkle” (2014) reads to me.





Tara Sabharwal, “*Steam*” (2017) etching ink, watercolor, and pastel, 22”X30”

Sabharwal’s keen eye for color and nuances in hue, such as in “*Steam*” (2017), are demonstrated throughout the exhibition *Float*. And for someone who manipulates shade and tone as deftly as she does, it’s impressive that her sense of compositional structure is just as strong — which can be seen in the black and white print “*Anniversary*” (2016), which depicts what may be dandelion wisps wafting to the foreground to become a garden of human eyes settling onto a bone-white ground below. Loveliness lives in her hand.



Tara Sabharwal. "Anniversary" (2016), etching ink and watercolor, 30 x 44 inches.





Installation view of *Float* at Wilmer Jennings gallery (photo by Shervone Neckles)

Tara Sabharwal: *Float continues at Wilmer Jennings gallery at Kenkeleba House (219 East 2nd Street, East Village, Manhattan) through March 31.*

