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Indian Shades from NY City

US-based artist Tara Sabharwal talks about art vitality in the subcontinent

Archana

The whole world is talking about Indian art but how well it has begun to accept the art from the subcontinent is best summed up by New York-based artist Tara Sabharwal. "A few weeks back, there was a big exhibition by an Iranian architect at the Guggenheim Museum, New York and I couldn't place the invite. My friend accompanying me said that since I was Indian, they would be more than glad to have me over. The West is wooing the Indian artists and intelligentsia big time and it is really cool to be Indian now. Indian shows are always covered by the western media," she says.

Tara, who was born and brought up in Delhi, is right now in town for her solo show *Open Dream Paths*. "After doing BA in painting from MS University, Baroda, I went to study at the Royal College of Art, London. From there on, one thing led to another and I found myself in New York," says this artist who, while mounting the show at the gallery, chats up with old neighbour from South Extension and fellow artist Harshavardhan. Talking about the "good, old days," she says, "The young today think that there is a lot of money in art but that wasn't the case earlier. Our generation always knew that there never would be any money, it was a suicidal step that we all took."

Of course, she adds that the big tree of the art that exists now "always had a good seed then."

Has identity ever been an issue for Tara, considering that she works in a western milieu? "Identity does become an issue when you leave your country but we all have multiple identities and grow with all of them," she reasons and suddenly after a thought, adds, "India itself has outgrown its identity and we are not narrow anymore. The world is waking up to that fact now."

— *The exhibition Open Dream Paths is on at Art Alive Gallery, S-221, Panchsheel Park, till September 30*

Welcome home: Artist Tara Sabharwal (above) poses with one of her paintings

Flying high: Tara's Blue Skies