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**Open Dream Paths Tara Sabharwal at Art Alive**

**Avtar Singh**

This new show brings the New York-based artist back to New Delhi, where she started out. This Show, a collection that showcases her dominant concerns, may strike many as being deliberately naive, but a sustained examination presents much more to the eye. The artist's works seem autobiographical, sometimes compulsively so. Yet they work on a visual level. The concern on the artist's part seems to be to probe away at her own issues, to pick at the scabs till an artistic resolution presents itself, or at least a further set of questions.

Her work deals in mixed media in watercolours and oils. Her imagery may seem jaded to some; the vocabulary a stock one of ladders and boats and roots; a vocabulary that people have seen before, used before. But in this artist's work there is a sense of energy and immediacy, as of passion kept barely in check, and this spontaneity itself draws the viewer into her visual narratives of play/escape. Are her protagonists at play, or are they engaged in a feverish attempt at escape? Her cross-cultural influences find their outlets in her art as well, a pollination that serves her well, especially in her explorations of her pet issues of identity and 'home'. Take a look, it should be worth it. Where Art Alive When September 21 to 30.