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A FUSION OF EASTERN AND WESTERN CULTURES

An artist's journey of outward exploration and inward examination

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NEW DELHI: Reflecting upon the vicissitudes of her own life, Manhattan-based artist Tara Sabharwal is mounting a ten-day solo show of her recent works titled "Open Dream Paths" at Art Alive here beginning this Wednesday.

Based on a fusion of Eastern and Western cultures, the artist's works - drawing, prints and paintings — show influences not only of Indian mythology but also from European artists.

Besides striving to elucidate some of the complexities of the modern human condition, the works on paper that form part of the show are records from Tara's journey of outward exploration and inward examination. The images reflected in her works are open-ended symbols that invite the discerning art lovers to make their own interpretations.

Speaking about her works, Tara says: "The lure for exploration guides me in life and art. To create works of art, I extend into, new territories, encountering passages of extreme beauty and crossing borders of terrifying darkness while simultaneously digging inward, within myself, seeking images whose resonance can guide me in my search for meaning and resolution."

Revealing that her explorations have taken her to many places, new homes and cultures, the artist says: "The travel has been an enriching experience and has enabled me to stretch my boundaries and understanding."

Hailing from Delhi, Tara left the country after completing her graduation at M.S. University in Baroda in 1980 to pursue an advanced degree at the Royal College of Art in London.

According to an American art critic, Karin Miller-Lewis, "Tara is an artist of sustained focus. Like a scientist in search of new insights, she will try many different approaches to persistent problems."

As her works are all about memories, dreams and illusions, things are not defined by solid boundaries but "built up with marks which are tentative and nervous or fluid and sweeping, so that the compositions convey a sense of openness and immediacy."

"Tara's work is indecipherable and un-categorisable. One sees here a whole range of images of homelessness or perhaps better said, of a concern with the instability of the category 'home', whether as experience or as prospect," says Professor Stathis Gourgouris of the University of Los Angeles.