

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/colours-of-a-different-world/68206/>

One of our more subtle and distinct artists, Vadodara and London trained Tara Sabharwal, now a resident of New York, is exhibiting her work at the Art Heritage Gallery in New Delhi.

Ms Sabharwal is a figurative artist whose figuration is subtly interfaced with abstract spaces of colour and texture, reminding one of a similar subtle treatment in the works of Akbar Padamsee.

This time, however, one notices subtle changes in her treatment. The unclothed figures of the internal imagery flowering as the most striking elements in her drawings and water-colours are now relegated to a takeover of the inner by the outer world.

The dream like monochromes, too, have given place to colourful scenes of skyscrapers with deep pools that create inner mirrors within the external surroundings. This imagery gives this series a far more realistic look as it is clearly a blend of the exterior and interior.

It also gives one the feel that events greater than the individual have begun to intrude on our lives as never before. The WTC (World Trade Centre) tower collapse, the war in Afghanistan, the talk of terrorism to end terrorism, are all visible in her work this time. There is a sense of terror exposing itself in elements that are familiar to us. Even the aquarium that once evoked goldfish or all sorts of tropical fish, is filled with shark like monsters. It is like waking up to the understanding that the man in the pinstripe suit, reading the newspaper and looking at his investments, is suddenly becoming an oil-hungry terrorist gloating over the war in Iraq.

That an artist as subtle as Tara Sabharwal, who is the epitome of a very individual artist with very personal concerns, should change the way she has, reflects great changes coming over us, changes that will make the art of 2003 much more than ever before.

It will be bolder. It will be more colourful. And it will be closer to life. This is the process that has enriched the work of Tara Sabharwal this time and given her art a welcome leap forward. This is an exhibition to see and mull over.