

REGIONAL REVIEW

Tara Sabharwal

Terrace Gallery, Harewood House, nr. Leeds

The Terrace Gallery is an excellent, well-lit space forming part of the main house at an intense and intricate impact, quite the opposite of that created by the broad expanses of this great English stately home.

Sabharwal is an artist with cultural roots in both India and Europe. Her pictures are very influenced by the aesthetic concept of Dhavani, the idea that art works should contain an essence from which meaning can be invoked, but without these essences and meanings being overtly stated. It is therefore not surprising that there are many wraith-like figures and creatures of unknown mythological or symbolic meanings, and much hinting at obscure rites and emotional undercurrents in this artist's work.

The composition of the pictures is equally fluid: the figures performing unclear, but apparently significant, rites featuring birds or masks or fishes seem very insubstantial; they hover weightlessly, merging without any division into the banks of vegetating or swirling background landscapes of the paintings.

There is also a selection of the artist's - pen drawings on show. These have a dramatic shading, reaching great intensity at certain points on the paper, blacked-out and frantic at times, particularly across the faces of the figures in the drawings. These works are quite like the automatic drawings of the Surrealists, for instance those of Andre Harewood and facing out onto the handsome Masson and would undoubtedly make interesting subjects for, psycho-analyst. Tara Sabharwal's drawings are perhaps the most interesting works in this unusual show. *(to Oct 13)*

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