

IMPRESSIVE DEBUT BY BARODA ARTIST

By D.G. Nadkarni

Tara Sabharwal makes an impressive debut with drawings, prints and paintings at the Cymroza art gallery (B. Desai Road).

She is the latest among highly talented and young Baroda alumni to show their work in the city. The Baroda

Art

Stamp is writ large on the work of these artists of tomorrow. Their imagery as well as their technique offers scope for companionship.

Like her confreres Tara uses a free-ranging imagery which is pure and original as against merely thematic and literary. A typical example of this is "Man with the burning torso".

This is also one of the few specifically surreal works of the artist, the others including "Man with head" and "Concern" There is a distinct link between these surreal paintings.

"Concern" is by far the most intriguing of the trio; in it a nude is stretched out in front of a standing man. The man is also nude as are most of the persona that people Tara's paintings.

Tara's workmanship is seen at its most satisfactory in the prints. Again in "Early morning" we have three intriguing creatures. This sort of human delineation pays tribute to the wide range of the artist's imagination.

Among the drawings "Mother and Child" affects you with its sparseness of line and arbitrarily non-realistic measure in which the mother and child are cast.

There is scope for a scholar to study how far Tara is influenced by the icons and frescoes related to the Madonna and the child in projecting such a contrast in size. This is also the legacy of the miniatures and medieval Indian painting.

I find that the influence of Munch and Khakhar hinted at by Ivan Prescott in the catalogue is the only lingering one. The other influences have

apparently been absorbed and digested during the artist's formative years.

CHARMING LANDSCAPES

Tara's landscapes are charming "Orange cloud" is like child art.

"Sleepwalkers" redolent of munch, projects appropriate poses. "Puberty" is another fine painting showing a girl in a field (clothed for a change). "Remorse" has a dominating pink. "Island-II" is the best work in the show noted for its versatile texture.

I believe only in oils as the major medium which tests an artist's talent. While this show gives ample proof of the latter quality in Tara one waits to see her oils.