

American artist of Indian origin returns to Delhi

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Art Alive Gallery is presenting *The Open Window*, a solo exhibition of paintings by Tara Sabharwal. Sabharwal is an Indian artist who hails from Delhi and is based in New York, USA since last 30 years. She left India in 1980, after completing her graduation at MS University, Baroda, to pursue a Master's degree at the Royal College of Art, London. Over a career that spans 35 years, she has received many prestigious awards and International grants. She has had 40 solo shows in USA, UK, France, Germany and India.

Sabharwal describes what served as an inspiration for her art. She says, "When I was seven years old, I sensed a duality within myself. An open awareness coupled with an ephemeral uncertainty. At times this shakiness would fester inside and I felt as though I were no more than the dream of an unseen, unknown being. The world was a stranger. But, at other times, when my mind wandered aimlessly, I fell in sync with that being. Breathing in the vibrancy of my surroundings, the colours and sounds, I felt at one with the world."

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Conjugate, by Tara Sabharwal.

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"As an artist, my past work has dealt largely with the dream-like interface between the conscious self and its subjective world. Figurative imagery, dioramas encased within womb-like vessels, conveyed the entropic multiplicity of reality."

She adds: "My latest non-figurative work, however, marks a return to the open awareness I sometimes felt as a child. I set my brush free, and through a process of spontaneous mark making, observe my thoughts until my mind begins to shut down. As I paint, a moving world of colours and shapes emerge and dissolve at an open window,

transcribing the unseen, unknown within."

Sabharwal has taught art at the Guggenheim Museum, Cooper Union, Studio in a school, City University (CUNY), the Rubin Museum of Art, The Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop in NYC and the Women's Studio Workshop (Rosendale, NY). She has served on the board of the Asian American Art Centre and The Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, NYC.

She is exhibiting in Delhi after a gap of five years.

The show is on view at Delhi's Art Alive Gallery from 25th September to 25th October.