

Mid-day - 27.6.86.

THE GALLERY SCENE

Indian art in France

By DNYANESHWAR
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This evening there will be a unique programme at the Alliance Francaise. Chemould Publications and Arts will launch the monograph, "Raza", which sums up the contribution to art of one of Gallery Chemould's most cherished artists now living in France. There will also be the first screening in this country of the documentary, "Paris-Inde, Huiles sur Toile 1955-1985", which was made for showing at the Festival of India in France that has just ended.

The film provides a rare insight into the Parisian influence on four major contemporary Indian artists: S.H. Raza, Krishna Reddy, Akbar Padamsee and Ram Kumar. The works of some of these artists were shown at the Fondation Nationale des Arts graphiques et plastiques in Paris during part of the Festival of India, together with those of other artists who had lived in France and were influenced by its art, e.g., Amrita Sher Gil.

The rest of the art scene this week is mildly exciting. At the

Chetana art gallery, Abha Mascarenhas shows her paintings in aid of the hungry and destitute of Africa. Grouped under the title "Colours of



S.H. Raza

hope", the exhibition "aims at alleviating some of the pain unleashed by nature herself on Africa, particularly on Ethiopia's young and starving millions."

There are a few interesting naturescapes full of shades of green in vigorous impasto and Himalayan landscapes unnecessarily spoilt by some gaudy effects.

The treatment of the big sprawling leaves in the former category is quite promising (as

was seen in the artist's earlier show at Bajaj) but the Himalayas appear to be subjected to the artist's proficiency as an interior decorator.

The trend towards decoration is also evident in the spread of greenish leaves in cold ceramic. The two canvases sporting yellow orbs in the midst of greenery suggest a confusion of imagery which could have been avoided. At the moment Abha seems to hesitate between art meant to beautify interiors and a genuinely impressionistic treatment of vivid colour, she definitely has the talent to solve the impasse.

Ashok Revankar at the Taj art gallery is a skilled artist who gingerly steps out of the confines of academism. He has given up his landscapes for scenes of rustic festivities. He also draws with a feeling for geometrically constructed areas. This approach is related also to his manner of shading.

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Film on 4 Indian artists in France

By D. G. NADKARNI

The Alliance Francaise screened on Friday "Paris-Inde, Huile sur Toile (meaning "oil on canvas"), 1955-1985" made specially for the Festival of India in France.

The occasion was the launching of the monograph on expatriate Indian painter, S. M. Raza, published by Chemould Publications and Arts.

The film focuses on four Indian painters who have lived long years in France and have, to a certain extent, reacted fruitfully with the Parisian art scene.

They are Raza, Krishna Reddy, Akbar Padamsee and Ram Kumar. They are all shown against Parisian or Indian locales associated with their growth as painters and their current vocation.

Technically, the documentary is of a high order. The director, Patrick Cazals (who has co-scripted the film with Raissa Padamsee) goes deep into the artistic processes which characterise each of the four artists.

While Raza is good enough to acknowledge the debt of contemporary Indian art to Amrita Sher Gil, Reddy journeys to the atelier of the sculptor Zadkine who was his guru. These are thrilling moments in a film which moves with speed and deals with the quartet of now established artists with a unique empathy.

RAZA'S WORKS

"Raza", the monograph launched by Chemould, was formally released by Mr. Patrick Beck, director of the Alliance Francaise. It collects together salient articles and reviews about the painter as also outstandingly printed reproductions of Raza's most representative paintings.

At the Chetana art gallery Abha