

## Art Review

By S. I. Clerk

Gallery Chemould currently offers the second part of their exhibition in two parts of paintings by Indian artists abroad. On display are V. Vishwanadham (Paris), S. H. Raza (Paris), Sohan Qadri (Copenhagen), David Khandalkar (Zurich) and Praful Dave (London).

One obtains an overall comparative broad idea of the work that is being done by some of our artists settled abroad. Sohan Qadri is able to resist the 'modern' influences surrounding him and continue his strivings towards yoga and tantric. His marked reliefs to obtain maximum possible texture variations is of interest. His No. 11 is a collage with a gold foil in the centre surrounded by white — a rendition of supreme purity. . .

V. Vishwanadham's three graphics are highly symbolical creations based on the triangle motif which is of deep significance in Hindu metaphysics.

S. Raza is one of the senior contemporary Indian artists (b.1922) and was a founder member of the Progressive Artists Group, Bombay. He has settled in Paris since 1950. He is essentially a brilliant colourist and his abstractions are based on landscape motif. His series of dark sun juxtaposed against a surrounding square of four segments could be interpreted as symbolical. However, what is fascinating is his 'play' of vibrant colours.

David Khandalkar would appear to be striving towards a vague sort of minimal art and his two canvases on display consist of white strips against a

light bluish background.

### Dynamic

Dharmraj Bhoir having his debut at Jehangir Art Gallery is, I understand, a Marathi poet, a writer and teacher of art. His is a collection of pure abstracts inspired from landscape motifs. Apparently, here are floating forms, forceful dynamic strokes and fascinating texture variations. One may also notice a wide range of the palette. On a

more particular level, reference may be made to the Nos. 1 and 2 with their blue and yellow background. At times, one may be vaguely reminded of Paul Klee's approach.

### Subconscious

The second gallery of the southern wing of Jehangir Art Gallery has the joint show of paintings by Shabbir Quazi and Minakshi Quazi, both hailing

from Jaipur. While Minakshi works in mixed media on canvas (there are subtle collages), Shabbir works in acrylics on canvas. Invariably, their backgrounds are black against which are juxtaposed sort of floating forms in whites and/or greys or at times in colours. It is a weird world of the subconscious. The end wall has three striking monumentals by Shabbir, which could be an ideal setting for an experimental play.

### Figurative

Netra Seth at Taj Art Gallery continues with her ceramics on canvas and fully exploits the luminosity of her medium. She is figurative and her themes include rural belles, cattle, a toy bull, a horse, a peacock et al. The female figure studies dominate.

One may notice that the eyes of these figures are invariably dark and not defined and this device gives them a general appeal. In this context reference may be made to the No. 7 of a rather out of ordinary portrait of a brooding young girl who could 'belong' anywhere in the world and it is also not time-bound.

### Semi-abstracts

M. V. Krishnan offers at Jehangir Art Gallery a collection of medium-size sculptures. This is his debut in the city. He is professor and head of the department of plastic arts and dean of the faculty of visual arts Banaras Hindu University. He has 30 years of teaching experience in sculpture (in India and overseas). He offers a col-

lection of nine medium/large size sculptures and has gone in for a wide variety of materials — rose-wood/ebony wood, bronze, aluminium, mazonite sheet, acrylic plastic and would appear to understand well their characteristics. Thematically speaking, these are semi-abstracts which need not have been given titles but left to the viewer's imagination.

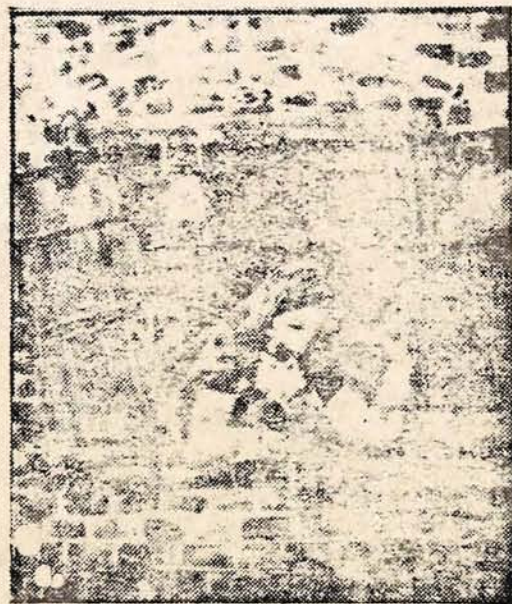
There is a sensitive juxtaposition of the polished and the roughly worked out patina in sculpture No. 1. There is an interesting interplay of space and volume, hollows and holes in No. 7.

### Magnificent

The Coomaraswamy Hall at The Prince of Wales Museum has an exhibition, A Magnificent Obsession, consisting of a very interesting collection of 'art objects'. This is actually a private collection belonging to Karl J. and Meherbhai Khandalavala. Karl Khandalavala is a renowned art critic and collector. And the collection is indeed magnificent.

It consists of early Mewar, Mughal, Rajasthani, Dagar paintings, stone, wood, bronze brass, ivory, terracotta, sculptures and other objects d'art, illustrated books, folk art pieces, etc. For any art historian a visit to this exhibition is a must. The exhibition is on till January 18.

Pundole Art Gallery are currently having till the month-end a sale offering old and new decorative brassware, wood carvings, jewellery and other exotic articles at 20 per cent discount.



"From the Window" by Netra Seth.