

Exhibitions

Phil Ellis looks at what's on in the galleries and discovers some reflections of India, a Hanoi spring, the art of Donald Hamilton Fraser and some historic timepieces

Reflections on India

Sarbani Sen has won widespread acclaim as one of India's leading artists of her generation. Her reputation hinges largely on her ability to capture so many aspects of a country that has long been regarded in the West as a source of mystery and illusion. Her fourth solo show in London will take place at The Gallery in Cork Street at 28, Cork Street from 26th-31st March, featuring 30 of her most recent works. She is largely self-taught, and her work varies from realistic to stylised semi-abstract in style.

This body of work eschews the popular images of monuments and so forth to present a side of the country and people often not alluded to by artists. Sen is based in Pune, but travels extensively; she shows us the bustle of an outdoor bazaar, a fleeting glimpse of an open-air wedding,



3



the brooding mist hanging over a lagoon and storm clouds over the Himalayas. These are evocative images, showing India at its most intriguing.

Three works from the exhibition, highlighting the range of Sarbani Sen's art, are shown here. **Pictured 1** is *Indolent Lake - Shantiniketan*, while **pictured 2** is a tranquil

4



study entitled *Water Lilies*. **Pictured 3** is *Caught in a sandstorm - Rajasthan*.

Hanoi Spring

It would be fair to say that Vietnamese artists have had relatively little exposure in the West and are still little known. This seems a pity when there is clearly so much artistic talent in that part of the world, as you will discover should you visit an exhibition organised by Oc-Eo Art, specialists in Vietnamese contemporary art, at the Arndean Gallery at 23, Cork Street, London. The gallery will showcase six new young Hanoi artists, alongside some more established names and will highlight the variety of work being produced in oil on canvas that emanates from Vietnam today.

The exhibition, which runs from 11th-21st April, is entitled *Hanoi Spring* and with its strong use of colour in subjects ranging from landscapes to vibrant street scenes and from haunting waterscapes to still lifes, the Vietnamese art to be shown is both fresh and exciting.

If you should miss *Hanoi Spring*, then you can still see the works of some young and established artists from Vietnam and China at the Chapel Row Gallery in Chapel Row, Bath, ►

5



6



from 4th-16th May in another show presented by Oc-Eo. Entitled *Hidden Charms*, it will present a range of works, from watercolours on rice paper and silk to oils on canvas.

Both shows are preceded by a special opening reception; if you would like more details, call Oc-Eo Art on 01373 832 939. In the meantime, here are some examples of

Vietnam's finest. **Pictured 4** is *Nude 2* by Nguyen Bich Ngoc, **pictured 5** is *Sunny Alley III* by L M Duc, and **pictured 6** is *Still Life 2* by Nguyen Yen Nguyet. **Pictured 7** is *Lotus Season* by Le Huu Ich.

7



Proof positive

"There has always been a sort of imagery that resists the written word. It is drawn from the eye and the heart and is about the experience of the present moment." These are the words of artist Donald Hamilton Fraser RA, and it is certainly true of his latest exhibition, *40 Years of Prints - Artist's Proofs from the Artist's Own Collection*, which runs at

8



the Bohun Gallery in Henley-on-Thames from 19th March to 22nd April.

Donald Hamilton Fraser is a distinguished and accomplished artist whose work is highly acclaimed. He has exhibited in Paris, New York, Tokyo, Zurich and many other cities around the world. His paintings can be found in many private and public collections, including those of HM The Queen, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the National Gallery of New South Wales, and various City Art Galleries in the UK. He is known for dramatising his subject matter with bold colours and his use of visual metaphor in which abstract and descriptive elements combine to express a heightened experience of landscape and still life. His work lends itself well to the medium of silkscreen, and alongside the paintings will be shown a number of limited edition prints.

Some examples of works from the exhibition are shown here: **pictured 8** is *Flowers*, a 1995



work in silkscreen and woodblock, 49.5cm x 42cm (19½" x 16½"), **pictured 9** is *Close Hauled*, silkscreen, 1996, 58.5cm x 40cm (23" x 15¾") and **pictured 10** is *Italian Dancer*, silkscreen, 1987, 58.5cm x 41cm (23" x 16¼").

Blake's heaven

Quentin Blake is undoubtedly one of this country's best known illustrators, thanks in part to his 15-year partnership with Roald Dahl, during which he produced unforgettable illustrations for *Matilda*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Twits*, *The Witches* and *The BFG*. He has become known to a whole new generation through his own creations, such as *Clown* and *Zagazoo* and *Loveykins*. The Guardian described him as 'already a national institution' when he became the first Children's Laureate in 1999.

Chris Beetles Gallery at 8 & 10 Ryder Street, London SW1 currently has 150 drawings and watercolours by Blake, and will present them at a selling exhibition from 25th March until 7th April. The artist himself will be on hand on Sunday 25th March for a special children's fund day. **Pictured 11** is an



illustration in Blake's inimitable style, *The Trapeze Artist and the Shoe*. This image, measuring 66cm x 51cm 26" x 20" in pen, ink and watercolour with crayon, was created for advertising for John Lobb the shoemakers.

Drawing from Painting

Most of us remember our first ever visit to a gallery, but few first visits can have made such a profound impression as that of Leon Kossoff, who had apparently never seen a painting until his first visit to the National Gallery in 1936, at the age of ten. He was awestruck, commenting later that "it seemed as though all the streets of London led there."

After his military service, he became a more frequent visitor and, as an art student, began to draw seriously. In the late 1980s, he began printmaking, bringing plates to the National Gallery and



drawing on them directly in front of the paintings.

From now until 1st July, the National Gallery will show a selection of his works, exploring his relationship with the Old Masters and with the collection of the National Gallery in particular. Works on show will include one of his large scale paintings of Christchurch Spitalfields, as well as works on paper made from pictures with a special significance for the artist.

Pictured 12 is one of Kossoff's works that is currently on show, *From Veronese: An Allegory of Love IV ('Happy Union)*, from a private collection, copyright Leon Kossoff. □

Time and Place

The Antiquarian Horological Society (AHS) was founded in 1953 by a group of collectors and enthusiasts to promote the study of clocks and watches. Membership is worldwide and there are flourishing regional sections in almost every part of Britain. The Society publishes a quarterly journal, *Antiquarian Horology*, and organises meetings, lectures and tours around the country, as well as offering a free technical enquiry service to members and non-members. It also organises exhibitions, one of which is taking place at the Museum of the History of Science in Oxford.

The exhibition, entitled *Time and Place*, follows a very successful 50th anniversary exhibition, *Horological Masterworks*, at the same venue. This new exhibition spans the period 1600-1840 and focuses on clockmaking in the larger regions. There are 68 clocks in the exhibition, and they are comprehensively labelled with reproductions of maps for the appropriate areas taken from John Owen's *Britannica Depicta* of 1751. It is accompanied by an extensive, 280-page colour catalogue; for a copy, or for details of membership, contact the AHS on 01580 200 155 or visit the website at www.ahsoc.demon.co.uk.

The exhibition continues until 15th April.