

THE 9 EMOTIONS

The Erotic. The Valorous. The Furious. The Terror-stricken. The Pathetic.
The Comic. The Disgusting. The Marvellous. The Peaceful.

11 April – 17 May 2008

Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery and **Tara Publishing** are delighted to announce the launch of an exhibition to be held at the new Conway Street gallery: **The 9 Emotions**.



According to a second-century Indian theory of aesthetics, there is a spectrum of nine emotions that the superior work of art should evoke and represent. This exhibition focuses upon each of these distinct emotions through a startling contemporary visual context: the art of the Indian cinema billboard.

The huge specially-painted film hoardings that dominate city roads across much of India rely on compelling renderings of character and emotion to advertise their wares: heroic, virile men with swords and pistols on the draw; moustachioed faces contorted with red rage; lovers swooning under a glistening yellow moon...

But as new methods of poster-printing and photo-reproduction become more readily available, the hoarding-painter's art is under threat.



For *The 9 Emotions* exhibition the renowned South Indian hoarding-painter **M.P. Dhakshna** and his studio collaborators – **Balu**, **Raghunathan** and **Chandrakantha** - have produced a vivid specially-commissioned series of large-scale images embodying the nine specific emotions celebrated in Indian art and drama. Each one is fixed in an imagined but typical scenario – as though it were the star of its own film. They are paintings of arresting power, drama, and – emotion.

Tara Publishing have produced a book - *The 9 Emotions of Indian Cinema Hoardings* - to accompany the exhibition.

Please contact James Green at the gallery for more information or images.

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