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Fifty-year retrospective Drawings, sculpture and animation

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Tilak's art

An exhibition by well known artist and architect Tilak Samarawickrema will be held at the Lionel Wendt Art Gallery from today (22) to Sunday (25) from 6.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. daily.

The first thing that strikes one's attention in Tilak's drawing is the fact that the curved line predominates over the straight line. And one could certainly say that his drawing is made exclusively of curved lines: the few straight lines to be found are there precisely because he cannot do without them, but if one looks carefully, these lines which seem straight are in reality a segment of a curve whose radius is very large. If Lobacevskij, the famous inventor of spherical geometry, who lived in the first half of the nineteenth century, could have

seen these drawings, he would have liked them because of the predominance of curved lines. But these drawings of Tilak are constructed with this type of line, not so much for reasons which non-Euclidean geometry suggests to the mind; on the contrary, I believe, because in his own country he grew up and was formed in the midst of these signs. The Sinhala script is all made up of curved lines, but not curves made with a compass, curves made by hand, small, large, of any variable radius, with flourishes or not. Also in the art forms of Sri Lanka the images are constructed like this, sinuous, soft, full of life. This curved line of Tilak's runs over the paper, is a dynamic line, perhaps follows the observer's eye which discovers a world in its wholeness and in its detail. This mode of drawing of Tilak's is therefore a very essential mode, not boring and pedantic, but stimulating so that also those who look at the drawing are compelled to participate with pleasure in the reading of the visual message

- Bruno Munari Catalogue Galleria dell L'Obelisco, Via Sistina, Roma

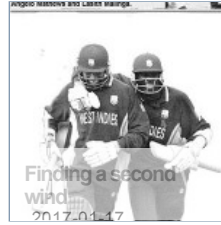
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