

TRANQUILLITY IN ABUNDANCE

THE Lalit Kala Akademi recently held an exhibition of Russian artistes who had come to India attracted by its scenic beauty, ancient art, mountains and rivers and the incredible energy of life reflected in the sunlit crowded markets and lofty temples. Fifty-nine artistes presented their impressions in medium as divergent as oil and pastel.

Vladimir Anisimov, as part of the "4th Himalayan Expedition of Russian Artists", travelled throughout the country to learn the ancient art of "batik". His works betray deep influences of Indian, Mexican and Indonesian artists; an inspiration which has been quite deftly adapted to suit his medium and temperament.

His output is as varied as it is prolific. From batik to etching to topestry to water colour to oil to textile to interior designing, Anisimov has tried his hands remarkably. His "Boats on Ganga River" is worth a special note. So is his tapestry work. It is handwoven and evolved from vegetable dyes. "I have been visiting India for the last 15 years and this is one of my greatest inspiration," he said.

His favourite painting subjects in India are Himalayas, Kullu, Mahabalipuram and Old Delhi's Chandni Chowk.



Vitali Popov's curiosity about Roerich's inspirations hidden in the lofty mountain tops of Himachal and Ladakh drew him to India. He was not disappointed.

The exhibition's main attractions were, however, the etchings. Stainslav Wibireyev has brought a sense of tranquillity to his etchings. His works move around pastoral landscapes, flora and fauna and calm skies. In the work titled "Brindavan", tranquillity is in abundance, reflected in the silent buffalo swimming in the river, birds sitting near grand old trees. Wibireyev's works are the result of Russian painters and last pain-

stakingly minute representation of nature.

Sergie Smirnov's etchings are of a different kind; abstract but without losing the realistic touch. The technique is impromptu but leaves nothing to imagination. Rustam Yaushev's works give a pleasant twist to the traditional art by adding colour in oil and gouche. He is adept both in black and white renderings and in works awashed in brilliant colours.

Some other works which caught the eye were the landscape painted by Sergey Karbushev and Ludmila Tregubenbo's peoplescape.

Shivani Bharadwaj