

BESTBETS

Art

Travels impact her themes

A sensitive and intellectual painter, Sheila Isham has stayed for long periods of time with her husband, a foreign service officer, in Germany, India, Haiti, Russia and China, and those experiences have had an indelible influence on her art. The impact has been primarily spiritual, and has resulted in the integration of elements from many different cultures.

Images of bulls from Indian temples, the animated brush strokes of Chinese calligraphy and the flora and fauna of Haiti are melded in her collages and oil paintings.

The large oils of bulls and, occasionally, people of her Bull Series (1989-1994) are

"Cosmic Earth"
Paintings by
Sheila Isham
Eri Gallery
V. Ferencik tere 5
Tel. 266-6095
Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-
6 p.m.

Through Nov. 12

bursting with colors reminiscent of the German Expressionists (an early influence from her stay in Berlin in the '50s) and Gauguin. The ancient bull image evokes biblical associations and has a dreamy atmosphere reflecting, according to the artist, "gentleness and strength simultaneously present."

Although the multicultural influence turned up in Isham's work only for a limited time, her oeuvre retains coherence.

This is shown in the technique of her latest series, "Mythical Escapade." Here Isham has collaged pieces cut out from her black-and-white lithographs of the '70s. These pieces balance the figurative and the abstract, a quality that runs through all of Isham's works.



Sheila Isham's "Mythical Escapade."

— Zsófia Horváth