



Above: Habib Kheradyar's "Parody" was created in 1987.
Left: "Noiservini" from 1988
Right: "Sclatic" from 1987



Kheadyar's art embodies Persian and American

By Brian Butler
Collage Staff Writer

Materialism is a slogan beat to death in modernism. Irony and distance are also old hat to anyone who understands the human that is built in, but amazingly ignored, within much of our modernism history.

What all this does is make one long for a person who can take a stand, to show us heart instead of product, true conflict instead of tightrope-walking. Habib Kheradyar's paintings portray a conflict that goes to the depths of his identity. A dualism has been created in Kheradyar by the diverse cultures he carries within himself.

Tar is the main material Habib uses to construct his images. The blackness of tar becomes a willing and seductive surface upon which Kheradyar plays out his own cultural history. Subtle patterns in the paintings reflect his Persian childhood, whereas the violent expressionistic manner in which the paint is used is a purely western trait. Sensibilities of Persia, combined with those of American-style

modern art, create a moody sense of clashing expectations, of differing cultural meanings being wrested out of their environments and thrown into question.

A history of clashing, opposing cultures yes, but a history of the painter's positive thought is also seen. A hope of reconstructive thought is still held. A sign of a willingness to try to resolve in a meaningful way what many people aren't willing to face, or are only too willing to use to their own advantage creeps into the picture. A sense of deep cultural conflict, presented on the scale of Kheradyar's monumental paintings, is bound to have an impact upon our culture-centric attitudes. The fear laden, war-like realm of our nationalistic attitudes becomes tinged with an edge of hope, and an ounce of hope must necessarily go much farther than the tons of weapons our true deconstructivists (the war industry) are producing.

Habib Kheradyar's show is from April 11 to 16, in the east gallery of the Fine Arts Building of the Claremont Graduate School. Hours are from 10 to 5, Mon.-Sat.