

Flexing muscles for art



and a work by Bari Kumar

propriates medieval and Renaissance paintings, Tibetan *thankhas*, putto from churches, anatomical drawings, Indian miniatures and iconography to make his images on display at Bose Pacia gallery.

In this exhibition titled Amar Prem, Bari Kumar's images look familiar enough



eyewitness

with occasional twists that make them look alien, even uncanny. A headless Adonis has four arms like a Hindu deity. A skull appears behind

it, a grim throwback to an earlier artistic device, meant to remind people of their own mortality.

Bari Kumar throws in words from various languages (including the familiar F-word) to further muddle the cultural confusion. He is a highly skilled artist and this

allows him to create servicable imitations of the cross-cultural images.

Of course, hybrids such as these have become the stock-in-trade of various artists in this country and abroad. Bari Kumar's are only more clearly thought out.

Soumitra Das

Bari Kumar, who lives in Los Angeles, plunders icons from the world's great storehouse of images. He ap-