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Jayashree Chakravarty
Bose Pacia Modern
508 West 26th Street, Chelsea
Through May 25

Jayashree Chakravarty's second New York show is a logical advance on her first, at the Drawing Center in SoHo. Here as there this New Delhi-based artist gives painting a sculptural dimension in a piece based on a giant paper scroll that stands upright on its side and curves inward like Richard Serra's "Torqued Ellipses." In this case, though, the walls are semi-opaque and covered with words and images that turn a hectic urban landscape into a moral terrain, staked out with one-word directives ("Firmness," "Harmony") pointing in confusing directions.

Most of the show, though, is made up of paintings on canvas. She refines an earthy, luminous palette of white, blue, brown and black, and a hybrid technique that combines painting, drawing, collage and relief patterning. In a departure from earlier work, her recent compositions focus on a few figures that seem to exist, like those in William Blake's hand-printed books, in a universe of explosive molecular activity. Her emblematic narrative tableaux also has a Blakean cast, though the real influences might be sought in contemporary artists like Nalini Malani and Arpita Singh, two of India's finest painters of an earlier generation.

HOLLAND COTTER