

Yoga guru Yogi Desai, Fré Ilgen, artist Natvar Bhavsar



Fred Mali, Anil & Jean Nayar, Countess Lucretia Mali



Elbrun Kimmelman, Kelly Tagore

Ambasz besides noted artists, socialites and collectors. They all toasted acclaimed colorist Natvar Bhavsar and 'The Poetics of Color'—a retrospective of four decades of his work. His soaring artworks take your gaze skywards, and in these pristine surroundings you could really appreciate the depth and spirituality of these works.

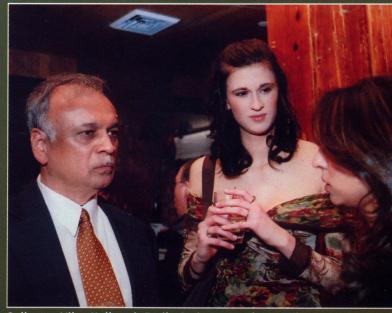
Sundaram is a great believer of east meets west and the international artists he represents also cross that chasm with their work. Coming from the illustrious Tagore family, it was inevitable. Says Sundaram, "Dialogue has been very, very important to my family. Way back in 1902 they created a world university and it stems from that idea of bridges, of bringing people together."

The gallery has published books with contributions from noted art critics and scholars, and it's also a gathering spot for the community, with art, film and book events. And yes, it's going to be even more eye-catching in the summer, with a meditative zen garden being built in the courtyard of the gallery. The taxi-wallas would hardly recognize their old garage if they saw it now!

TEXT: LAVINA MELWANI



Aroon Shivdasani (Executive Director, Indo-American Arts Council Inc.), collectors Romita Shetty & Payal Chaudhri



Collector Vilas Kulkarni, Emily Steiger, Aranka Israni



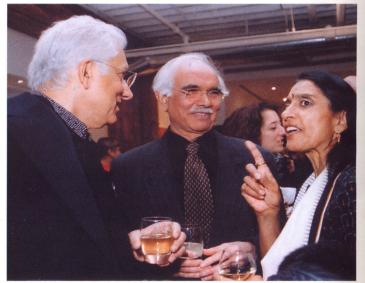
Sundaram Tagore, actress Debra Winger, designer Liora Manne, Charles Peck

## High Art in a Taxi Garage

Fabulous art in a taxi garage? Sundaram Tagore, a descendant of the illustrious Tagore family, himself an art historian, collector and connoisseur moved from his big gallery in Soho to an even bigger space—a 100-year-old garage in Chelsea. Hundreds turned up for the opening night exhibition, as did *Hi!*.

In New York anything's possible and as Chelsea has exploded into the hub of the art world with over 300 art galleries, more and more such transformations are taking place. Art historian Sundaram Tagore is part of this process. Sundaram Tagore was excited to find this ground floor space and saw the rough industrial space for what it could be; the building itself is over 100 years old and houses dozens of galleries. The 5000 sq ft space was transformed by the noted San Francisco based architect Charles Hemminger.

To celebrate, Sundaram threw a big bash including a private



Tinu & Rajika Puri, Natvar Bhavsar

dinner at the chic restaurant that is so next-door that it could almost be an extension of his gallery. Hundreds turned up for the opening night reception, going through the beautiful space with art flowering on the walls. It was hard to believe that just eight months ago it was a rough and tough taxi garage teeming with taxi-wallas and yellow cabs!

Opening night guests included the who's who of the art and social worlds: actress Debra Winger, Annaliese Soros of the Soros family, designer Liora Manne, yoga master Yogi Desai, dancer and choreographer Jacque D'Amboise, architect Emilio