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Boy Without Reflection 2004
305 x 152 cm
120 x 60 inches
oil on canvas

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REVIEW

(excerpt)

After Dark Exhibition
28 April to 31 May 2004
Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai

by Abhay Sardesai

Ranbir Kaleka's large, mural-sized painting, *Boy Without Reflection*, described a dystopic universe that had mutilated dogs and fishes caught in a dreadful frenzy of gross mutation: even as the denizens of the animal world, caught in a technicolour miasma of colour, generated multiple reflections in the contaminated water, we could see that the squat, defeated figure of the boy could not summon up even a single reflection. Incidentally, many of Nalini Malani's works in the show also chose to use dogs as metaphors to invoke a ghastly nether-world, fuelled as it was with pathological drives and repressed desires. Both Kaleka and Malani successfully dwelled, much like Anita Dube, on the perverse spectacularity of violence.

Abhay Sardesai, editor of *Art India* magazine