

Londoner's Diary



Brush with substance for Shami

CIVIL liberties campaigner Shami Chakrabarti revealed a softer side last night at the Mall Galleries as she posed next to a new portrait. The director of human-rights group Liberty was awarded a CBE last year despite her strident criticism of the Government's supposed erosion of personal freedoms. Shami was one of 50 Women of Substance painted by the artist Tess Barnes. Other subjects included Jacqueline Wilson, Baroness Amos, Carol Vorderman and *Sun* editor Rebekah Wade.

Writer Kathy Lette brought a note of levity to proceedings as she scooted off to find her portrait. "Do you like my bag?" asked Lette displaying a black and purple purse. "Michael Hutchence gave it to me about 12 years ago now and I still wear it. I couldn't possibly show you as it would just be too shocking, but when he gave it to me he put in it a Polaroid." And what was the Polaroid of? A private part of his anatomy. "Can you believe it?" Yes, Kathy, I can believe it.