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After designing the new Lady Dior bags, German abstractionist ANSELM REYLE's first India exhibition focuses on his love for unconventional materials

While creating art is subject to an artist's vision and orientation, it may be an approach that's not always apparent to the viewer. One could well think the same of German abstractionist Anselm Reyle's works. Characterised by a seemingly mismatched set of materials and methods—think large all-over foil paintings, the paint-by-numbers routine, neon elements, and a fascination with found objects—Reyle's works at first glance conjure up a number of reactions. But it is for these same reasons that they are increasingly being sought out.

This year itself, Reyle has had two solo exhibitions in Copenhagen and another in Athens, been a part of Takashi Murakami's Artists for Japan' Christie's auction, and designed a line of bags for Christian Dior. And as he makes his way to Mumbai this month for his debut solo exhibition, *Indian Mylar Vision*, at the newly opened Gallerie Isa, art lovers here can view his works. On display would be his painting-by-numbers works, a recent series based on his abstracts that depict

figurative motifs, and two new sculptures, one clay and the other porcelain (made of flawed, rejected pieces and useless residues). But it's the variations of his trademark work with foils, drippings, neon elements, as well as all-over foil pieces, that are bound to draw attention. "I had the idea of using decorative foil for a painting when I saw it in a shop. A traditional painter probably wouldn't do that," says Reyle. "Working with surfaces and textures has a rather negative connotation in the art context. This provoked me to work with this material."

Reyle is also fascinated by everyday objects that he enjoys transforming. Items like acrylic, mylar, mirrors, car parts, and decorative objects taken from urban areas form the crux of his installations. "I like to work with things that already exist, and like to modify them through simple gestures. Furthermore, I bring them together with elements such as colour or light. For me, it is interesting to see how, through this process, something new is created," he says.

It is with this view that Reyle also stepped into the shoes of an accessories designer, creating a new line of Dior bags. Conceptualising an all-over pattern based on his own artistic style, Reyle experimented with materials and colours as well as the traditional heritage of Dior. What he discovered was an echo between Dior's existing palette and his own artistic research. The result: the Lady Dior bag, with a striking tilted carriage in the backdrop, and pops of Reyle's neon hues.

However, whatever roads Reyle may traverse, his first love remains abstractionism. "I use elements purely and directly, and at the same time find solutions with materials that aren't part of the traditional art palette. I try to open new doors that pull us out of classical abstract art." ■
Indian Mylar Vision will be on from Dec 16, 2011-Feb 16, 2012, at Gallerie Isa, Mumbai

By Preetika Mathew Sahay