



ELLEPREVIEW

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## WHAT THE DOG SAW

*Fluffy house pets take on a macabre edge in German artist Martin Eder's first solo exhibition in India*

**ELLE:** What can we expect from 'Monsters of Silence'?

**MARTIN EDER:** An investigation of nature and science form the basis of this exhibition. I use some very classic imagery of people, animals and landscapes to express the madness of the world. [Like] the owl and gargantuan depictions of flowers, which, though beautiful, are rendered threatening because of their monstrous proportions.

**ELLE:** Your paintings seem to warn the viewer that everything isn't quite as it seems.

**ME:** The question of how to represent something dark in the midst of something beautiful has been a constant preoccupation of mine. My paintings are silent and reflective. Silence has a relaxing effect, but can also be gruesome. There is mystery in the pictures, but it's hidden. What seem to be dreamy visions reveal themselves, on closer inspection, to be dystopian nightmares – edgy, ugly and dysfunctional.



**ELLE:** House pets are recurring subjects, and your work renders their wholesomeness almost sinister.

**ME:** I am not interested in the actual creatures themselves, more in how we project on them. Animals are representations of complete harmony and discomfort at the same time.

**ELLE:** Why see this degenerate side of things at all? Why not seek beauty?

**ME:** In a balanced world, there is no degeneration. It is just an ongoing, unstoppable process of transformation, and we are part of it. There is nothing ugly or beautiful unless we make it so.

'Monsters of Silence' is on from November 10 at Galerie Isa. [Galerieisa.com](http://Galerieisa.com)

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