

'A work of art is a scream of freedom'

6 Feb 2015

Berlin based artist, Matthias Bitzer's first solo exhibition in India at Galerie Isa is all set to roll till late April

Germany-based installation expert and painter Matthias Bitzer is debuting in India with his show *Islands and Chains*. In an email interaction with us, Matthias gives us a glimpse of his journey. The exhibition has a selection of paintings, sketches and sculptures by the artist.

His journey with art began as a student. "I studied art in Karlsruhe in Germany from 1999-2004 with Erwin Gross. I had the chance there to explore different types of media, to have a professor, who would support passion rather than technique and most importantly, enough time to find a voice. I don't exactly know when I started to paint, but it must have been at some point in this time," Matthias puts forth.

An artist has a devoted relationship with each of his art works, and Matthias is no different. "All my works stand in relation to each other. They evolve from a magnetism that sets a direction, that make each work necessary in the progression. Although each one can be read entirely independent of the rest, they also are fragments of a bigger picture, that can only be read from a distant view. Of course, some works carry a more crucial context whilst others rather represent bridges, in order to span the disparity between two pieces. So therefore it's impossible to distinguish one to be more important than another," he asserts.

Elaborating on the exhibits of his maiden venture in India, Matthias says, "The works in the show relate to the unfulfilled love between the German writer Rainer Maria Rilke and the Italian actress Eleonora Duse. Each work of this complex carries an independence, that allows it to see it dissolved from its precursor and its successor but at the same time, shares a continuation. The open ends in this structure allow it to connect to any surrounding."

Talking about the integral factors that influenced his works he reveals, "Most of the works emerged out of literature. A lot of the portraits were drafted out of descriptions of fictive characters, which appeared in novels. From the theoretical side, the essay *Rhizome* by Deleuze and Guattari had the biggest influence on my work."

Is the artist aware about the Indian art scenario? "I have to admit, that my sphere of knowledge about the arts in India is still too limited. But I am more than curious and will take the chance to see as much art as possible during my trip. I am not so familiar with Indian art yet, but on this visit I plan to spend time visiting the galleries and also going to the Kochi Biennale. I'm really excited looking forward to doing this!" he exclaims.

Till April 25 at Galerie Isa, Fort, 11 am to 6 pm



[1]