

Unique art works at city gallery



Ashwin Thadani (Director, Galerie Isa) in front of Robert Elfgen's monumental landscape painting titled *San Marco*

Zeenia.Baria@timesgroup.com

In 2011, when Ashwin Thadani embarked on his ingenious project of bringing international contemporary art to India, he did not fathom what a challenge it was going to be. Driven by his passion, keen eye and dedication to his mission, and with Galerie Isa having completed five years, he feels the first threshold has been crossed. Having incredible support from his collectors, who he is grateful to, the support from his global artists has been applaudable.

Since its inception, Ashwin has shown top quality international art and exhibited renowned British minimalistic star artist Idris Khan, globally sought after Romanian artist Adrian Ghenie and stellar German artist Michael Kunze, among others. He carefully chooses his artists with immense amount of research and study. The exhibitions are planned in advance; forthcoming shows until early 2019 are in line. Catalogs are published, and artists and curators from overseas are invited for the openings.

The show that opens this week is with Colonge-based German artist, Robert Elfgen. Elfgen's technically innovative bricolage-art is full of art-historical references. His associative treatment of



Robert Elfgen

objets trouvés, recalls Marcel Duchamp, his strict conceptual logic is reminiscent of Rosemarie Trockel, who taught his masterclass. Clear allusions to the Romantic pictorial language of painters such as William Turner can also be identified in his work.

Elfgen's artisanal investigations have lead him to achieve something attained by only a few artists — the creation of an utterly personal, unique cosmos. The exhibition is undoubtedly a must-see and the monumental 9ft landscape painting on wood titled *San Marco* is truly a masterpiece to be viewed for real to savour its beauty with the metal colours used in its creation.

When asked about his future plans, Ashwin seems all geared for an exciting 2017. On January 31, he opens a show with Berlin-based notable figurative painter Jonas Burgert, followed by participation at the India Art Fair in New Delhi. He has also conceptualised a three artist show in a long standing gallery in Spain, which will take place in June 2017.

Where: Galerie Isa, 27, Great Western Building, Opposite Lion Gate, Fort;
When: On Till January 21
(Tuesday to Saturday);
Call: 66373432