

Kunstmuseum Bern

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Press Release
Bern, September 19, 2007

Horn Please. Narratives in Contemporary Indian Art September 21, 2007 – January 6, 2008

India reflected in its art

Following the extremely successful exhibition *Mahjong. Contemporary Chinese Art from the Sigg Collection* in 2005, *Horn Please* is the second presentation within the framework of the “new frontiers in art” series. *Horn Please* brings together works from over thirty artists from India who have one thing in common: They take pleasure in telling stories that are entertaining, that pose social questions and that strike an immediate chord. India, in all its diversity, is reflected.

Horn Please! Truck drivers in India write this on the back of their trucks. One is supposed to sound one's horn in order to be allowed to pass or to avoid a collision when the truck reverses. Horn Please! In India, art is also communicative and has something to tell us. The narrative tradition has been a part of Indian culture for a very long time: In myths and legends, religions and stories of the Gods, in oral literary traditions and in the “Bollywood” entertainment industry the narrative takes centre stage. The more than thirty artists taking part in the exhibition draw a lively picture of India today and yesterday. They depict scenes of everyday life and fiction, mythology and satire, autobiographical material, social and historical subjects. *Horn Please* unites different perspectives on India, converted into narrative form by artists who have spent most of their lives there.

Great changes in the land of diversity

The economic and social effects of globalization have caused great changes over recent years, and this is also true of India. The works in this exhibition reflect the enormous economic, political and societal changes that have taken place in India, the land of countless languages, religions and cultures. What does it mean to live in a country whose heterogeneity was always a problem but also always its greatest richness? Many works in the exhibition deal with this topic. And they also deal with our times – with the question of what it means to live in a time in which the individual does not just act within one world but in many crossing, overlapping or unconnected worlds. Contemporary artists also see it as their task to give the socially disadvantaged or the ethnic and religious minorities a voice and take it upon themselves to tell their stories.

Stories without beginning or end

Horn Please is presenting works of art from roughly 1980 until today and is divided under four headings: 1. *The collision of narrative worlds*; 2. *Place for people – a revival*; 3. *Old Stories – told anew/ Eloquent metaphors*; 4. *Living in Alice's times*. The stories travel in all directions, are presented in changing media, in varying chronological perspectives and without an unbroken narrative thread, without beginning and end. Taking the 1980s as its point of departure and following the red thread of narrative, the exhibition attempts, on the one hand, to show the consistencies and inconsistencies in Indian art production. On the other, individual works of art are to be presented, that, thanks to their narrative components, possess the potential to touch us very directly – independently of our geographic and cultural origins – to pleasurably entertain us and to confront us with critical social issues or, by leaving “gaps” in the narrative, to stimulate us to active participation. Horn Please! An exhibition on the telling of stories, staged as a story.

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Curator team: Bernhard Fibicher, curator of the Contemporary Art Department GegenwART Museum of Fine Arts Bern and Suman Gopinath, free-lance curator and director of Colab Art & Architecture, Bangalore, India

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Direktion für Entwicklung
und Zusammenarbeit DEZA

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Opening

Thursday, September 20, 18h30

Duration of the exhibition

21.09.2007 – 06.01.2008

Entrance Fee

CHF 16.- / red. CHF 12.-

The RailAway combo ticket with a 20% reduction on railway ticket and museum entry is available from 1 September 2007 at all train stations and Rail Service 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min.).

Catalogue in English / Katalog in Deutsch

Horn Please. Erzählen in der zeitgenössischen indischen Kunst / *Horn Please. Narratives in Contemporary Indian Art*
Erscheint im Hatje Cantz Verlag. Herausgegeben vom Kunstmuseum Bern. 240 Seiten, ca. 200 farbige und s/w Abbildungen, gebunden. Deutsch ISBN-10: 3-7757-2016-2; ISBN-13: 9783775720168 / English ISBN-10: 3-7757-2017-0; ISBN-13: 9783775720175. CHF 69.-

Special Events

Public guided tours in English

Tuesdays, October 23, November 27 and December 18, 7.30 pm

Öffentliche Führungen in Deutsch

Jeden Sonntag, 11 Uhr und jeden Dienstag, 19 Uhr

Visites guidées en français

Mardi, 23 octobre et 27 novembre à 19h30

Kino Kunstmuseum: Filmreihe Bollywood & Beyond

ab 22. September bis 30. Oktober jeweils Samstag bis Dienstag
www.kinokunstmuseum.ch

Workshops für Kinder: Bern – Indien retour

ab 21. Oktober bis 23. Dezember jeden Sonntag, 10.30 – 12 Uhr

Lecture by Urvashi Butalia, publisher and author, New Delhi

Tuesday, October 16, 8 pm

Varun Narain - Zeitgenössisches Puppentheater aus Indien

Schlachthaus Theater
Samstag, 20. Oktober, 21 Uhr

Turnhalle PROGR: bee-flat Konzert. Don Li / White Space of Mumbai / Part 84

Sonntag, 21. Oktober, 20.30 Uhr

Lecture by Behroze Gandhi, lecturer in Indian Film Studies, London

Sunday, October 21, 12 noon

Indische Kochkurse mit Parul Schnitzler-Shah

Anmeldung: T 031 351 76 02, info@cookindian.ch
Samstag, 27. Oktober oder 24. November, 10.30 – ca. 14.30 Uhr

Lust auf Kunst am Samstagnachmittag: In Indien und anderswo – wenn Bilder Geschichten erzählen

Samstag, 3. November, 14 Uhr

Artist Talk: Abhishek Hazra (artist) and Bernhard Fibicher (curator)

Sunday, November 4, 12 noon

Vortrag von Jürg Grunder, Architekt und Professor für Architektur in der Schweiz und in Indien

Dienstag, 6. November, 20 Uhr

Vortrag von Bernard Imhasly, NZZ-Südasien-korrespondent, New Delhi mit anschließender Diskussion

Donnerstag, 15. November, 19.30 Uhr

Turnhalle PROGR: bee-flat Konzert. Kadim featuring Sandhya Sanjana

Sonntag, 18. November, 20.30 Uhr

Lecture by Yatin Pandya, architect and head of research/associate director of Sangath, Vastu Shilpa Foundation, Ahmedabad

Thursday, November 22, 7.30 pm

Kutiyattam – Einzigartiges Erzähltheater aus Kerala

Workshop: Samstag, 8. Dezember, 14 Uhr
Vorstellung: Samstag, 8. Dezember, 20 Uhr

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