

# Z<sub>2</sub>O Galleria | Sara Zanin

presents

## Archana Hande *All is fair in Magic White*

January 21 –February 27, 2010

**Opening Night Thursday January 21, 2010 at 6:30pm**

curated by Maria Teresa Capacchione

In our third encounter with Indian contemporary art, Z2O is pleased to present - for the first time in Europe - "All is fair in Magic White", the work of the artist Archana Hande (Bangalore, 1970) curated by Maria Teresa Capacchione.

"All is fair in Magic White" can be defined as an epitome of the works and ideas which have been the focus of the artist's work over the last ten years. In fact, Archana Hande has developed her creative research on the theme of "identity": racial identity, class and cultural identity as well as religious identity in post-colonial India. This research finds in "All is fair in Magic White" a perfect narrative and stylistic synthesis.

Archana Hande – who in her work employs every media: video, painting, photography as well the so called "new media" like the Internet (her personal project: [www.arrangeurownmarriage.com](http://www.arrangeurownmarriage.com)) – uses a print technique to narrate the story in "All is fair in Magic White", this technique of the "block print" is widely used in Asia.

Using this technique with the intention of creating a sense of continuity with the craftsmanship referenced in the story - la Hande has engraved the scenes

of the story on 120 individual wood “blocks” to later impress them on 30 pieces of cloth. She completed the process of this work by hand painting.

These hand painted and printed cloth acts as a story board for the ten minute animated video in which the particular traits of the few characters that make up the story are outlined with irony: 3 women belonging to the upper class of contemporary Bombay and a man, a craftsman from the slum of Dharavi, this particular slum, with it's almost one million inhabitants, is the biggest in all of Asia. The three women represent the main religions of the country: Maya the Hindu woman whose element is the sky and whose power is represented by the animal who accompanies her, the eagle Black Scarf; Mumtaz the Muslim woman whose element is water and whose animal is the snake Grey Bond. Finally, Mary who is Christian and whose element is earth, she is accompanied by the tiger White Streak. Ali Bhai – also possessor of an animal, the turtle Suzuki – is the man that the three women encounter in the slum of Dharavi. He is a craftsman who is the owner of a small business empire, Ali Leather Industries. The query that is given to the three women by Ali Bhai is the key to the story.

“All is fair in Magic White”, a work full of symbols and details, required a commitment of a year from la Hande: from the animal selection – whom in the Hindu tradition are used as vehicles by the many divinities and are symbols of power – to the costumes of the lead characters, up to the elements that make up the interior decoration of Ali's house. All these symbols and details make a reference to the cultural, racial, class and religious “identity” of contemporary India.

**The artist will be present** for the occasion of “All is fair in Magic White” inauguration in **Rome**.

**INFORMATION:**

**Gallery:** Z<sub>2</sub>O Galleria - Sara Zanin

**Personal Exhibition:** Archana Hande

**Presented by:** Maria Teresa Capacchione

**Opening:** Thursday January 21, 2010 at 6:30pm

**Address:** via dei Querceti 6, 00184 Roma

**Dates:** January 21 – February 27 2010

**Visiting hours:** Monday to Saturday 3:30pm- 7:30pm (or by appointment)

**Free Entrance**

**For additional information: Tel.:** +39 06 704 522 61; **Fax:** +39 06 770 776 16

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