

Z₂O Galleria | Sara Zanin

is pleased to present

Bharat Sikka *Indian Men*

February 12 – March 31, 2009

Opening Thursday February 12, 6.30 p.m.

Curated by Maria Teresa Capacchione

The Gallery Z2O is proud to present the first of a series of exhibitions by young, already affirmed Indian artists, that of the photographer Bharat Sikka (New Delhi, 1973).

There are many ways of represent the changes that have occurred in India over the last decade and Sikka has chosen a particular, unusual perspective, one that abandons traditional clichés with which India is often represented: the portrait of that Indian social class that - for better or worse - is determining the profound change. The work presented at Sara Zanin's Gallery, "Indian Men", is made up of a series of colour portraits, taken over the last five years, of mainly middle-aged, upper-middle-class men.

Looking at these men, photographed inside their own homes or in other family contexts, details stand out - their attire, the objects surrounding them, the interiors - they combine to tell their story: who they are, how successful they are, the wealth they have accumulated or inherited. Yet, in the powerful humanity of Sikka's pictures, there is something more: the vision of contemporary India. Through his detailed and broad-ranging portraits he describes the great change sweeping across India: the constant attention to traditions that come into contact with the attractions of modernity everyday, in the attempt, absolutely congenial to Indian culture, to integrate the one with the other.

Enigmatic, complex, contradictory, fascinating, proud: through the faces of these men Bharat Sikka is offering a contemporary vision of his Country.

Biography:

Bharat Sikka (New Delhi, 1973) grew up and then worked as a photographer in India before deciding to study at the Parson's School of Design where he earned a BFA in photography. Establishing a fine art approach to the field of photography, as an art form Bharat documents contemporary visions of India. His portfolio consists of environmental portraits of "Indian men", "Urban landscapes" in India and a personal project on his family. Since his first exhibition "Indian Men" at the Artists Space in NYC, his work has been displayed in numerous national and international exhibitions, including one at the National Museum of India (2008). Bharat has contributed for magazines and publications such as the New Yorker, I.D, Vogue, Vogue Homme International, Details and Time Magazine, where his work was featured as amongst the best photographs of 2005.

Sikka lives and works in New Delhi.

Selected Exhibitions:

2008 *Indian Men*, Otto Zoo Galleria, Milano; *Tarn et Garonne landscapes and portraits*, Place des Invalides, Paris; *Nature Morte*, New Delhi; 2007 *Space in between*, Recontres d'Arles, Arles; 2006 *Maharajas*, Espace Louis Vuitton, Paris; 2005 *Indian Men*, Valerie Cueto Gallery, Paris; 2003 *Indian Men*, Artists Place, New York.

INFORMATIONS:

Gallery: Z₂O Galleria - Sara Zanin

Solo exhibition: Bharat Sikka

Curated by: Maria Teresa Capacchione

Opening: Thursday February 12, 2009. 6.30 p.m.

Location: via dei Querceti 6, 00184 Roma

Exhibition continues till: March 31, 2009

Hours: Mondays - Saturday: 3.30 p.m. - 7:30 pm

Free entrance

For further informations: tel. +39 06 704 522 61; fax: +39 06 770 776 16

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