

‘Grave for Nothing’

Religare Arts Initiative presents a show by artists, Sanjeev Sinha and Dianne Hagen

from August 27, 2009 till September 23, 2009

New Delhi, August 25, 2009: Religare Arts.i Gallery, an art gallery launched under the Arts Initiative by diversified financial services company Religare Enterprises Limited (“REL”), proudly presents ‘Grave for Nothing’, a unique show by an exquisite pair of artists based in Delhi, Sanjeev Sinha and Dianne Hagen. The show will be inaugurated on August 27, 2009 and will be on view till September 23, 2009. The show is jointly curated by JohnyML and Elizabeth Rogers.

‘Grave for Nothing’ is a fruition of an year long collaboration between Delhi-based artist, Sanjeev Sinha and Amsterdam-based contemporary artist, Dianne Hagen. Together they produced a vast array of works that deal with the issues of contemporary power relations between ideologies, states, races, economy, culture, gender and spirituality.

The collaboration between Sanjeev and Dianne started when they met in 2006-07 in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, where Sanjeev was curating a large scale public art project on Buddhism and contemporary thoughts. Dianne went back to Amsterdam after finishing the project and came back to join Sanjeev in Delhi, where they formulated the basic ideas for executing the paintings culled in ‘Grave for Nothing’.

Born in Patna, Sanjeev Sinha completed his art education in Bihar and came to Delhi in the early 1990s and made his mark with his astonishingly provocative large-scale paintings that actively problematized the notions of Indian-ness and its popular variations. Though a prolific painter, Sanjeev has been always selective about his shows and most of his major works are shown in internationally curated exhibitions abroad.

Born in Amsterdam, Dianne Hagen, after completing her formal education in visual arts, invested her energy in developing conceptually strong minimal works of art, while keeping her focus strong on installation practice. An artist who has studied cross-cultural and inter-cultural exchanges in visual arts, Hagen found a potential collaborator in Sanjeev Sinha once she exhibited with him in Amsterdam and in India. Dianne is a highly acclaimed artist in the Amsterdam art scene.

“Collaboration in visual art practice, that too on the same surface, is a challenge for any artist; identity politics and gender politics have to be addressed while keeping them under control in order to retain the harmony of the visual result/product. Throughout the collaboration, I was aware of our differences and each stroke from my side was an effort to address this difference and the interface of ideas and styles,” opines Dianne Hagen about her tryst with Sanjeev Sinha.

Adds Sanjeev Sinha, “There is some sort of automatism involved in collaborative painting. It is Expressionistic and Dadaist at the same time. You start from nowhere, then the images evolve. Once the images are in place they have a life of their own. The artists’ job is to direct this organic nature of the images to a philosophical end.”

“Political ideologies exert their power through this ambiguous domain of language. History works from this ambiguous domain most often articulating the confusion as clarity. As the consumers of history we are supposed to imbibe this linguistic ambiguity as truth... A grave for/of nothingness is born when people all over the world realize that the truth that they have been upholding till date is nothing but a linguistic ambiguity strategically maintained by the powerful...The paintings of Sanjeev Sinha and Dianne Hagen speak loudly of this linguistic ambiguity in bold terms, perhaps through a language, which looks/sounds quite striking in a scene where paintings are made to soften the rough edges of the topics that the painters are dealing with,” observes JohnyML, one of the curators of the show.

Corroborates Elizabeth Rogers, co-curator of the show, “Sanjeev and Dianne’s lexicon and archetypal eclatements explore the mysteries and carnate threads of interconnectivity.... In addition to the concordance of these two aesthetic expressions, the physical force and vocabulary of the paintings in this exhibition and tome is overwhelming, at least to say strident and certainly not shy. Of all the works, one can be considered quiet, the others are enveloping, provocative, effervescent. As the metaphors and melodies can be so fused and introduced, despite any presupposed mental cacophony, such blending of what exists side by side in reality harmonises.”

“For Religare Arts.i, ‘Grave for Nothing’ is a trailblazer show mainly because we have been working on this project for almost a year and we witnessed the euphoric and ebbing moments of contemporary art market. We were witnessing the global forces being played out in our own country. This show is a philosophical take on such contesting forces in our times. This show is all about a global discourse on inter-cultural and economic exchanges,” cites Mukesh Panika, Director of Religare Arts Initiative.

About Religare Arts Initiative

Today's complex market structures have spun art out of the cocoon of mere aestheticism into a more rooted role as a recognized financial asset, a derivative with immense powers of wealth generation, equal to those of any brick and mortar industry. Given this base, it is now for the greater public-driven organizations concerned with the well being of art, to ensure that all the diverse dimensions of art are nurtured and given the right exposure, so that art permeates completely into the societal fabric and enriches a wider consciousness.

Religare Enterprises Limited (“REL”) launched Religare Arts Initiative Limited (“**Religare Arts.i**”), a wholly owned subsidiary in 2007. While most galleries, auction houses and art funds operate art businesses, Religare Arts.i will conversely leverage the business for art.

Religare Arts.i is committed to the business of arts and promoting art as an alternate investment option. The gallery is the first physical manifestation of this initiative.

To nurture talent, Religare Arts.i proposes to establish gallery space(s) for shows and exhibitions of works of artists across the board. These gallery spaces shall double-up as venues for seminars, symposia, workshops and other interactions on art issues. Art – Artist - public interactions in these spaces will be documented to improve public consciousness. The first has been launched in New Delhi.

About Religare Arts.i Gallery, New Delhi

Religare Arts.i is committed to creating holistic arts initiative. In furtherance of this commitment, we shall provide a platform for artists of all ages, genres and statures. The gallery in New Delhi has been created as a platform that will help in promoting young artists as well as the art market in India.

Spread over an expanse of nearly 12,000 sq ft. and housed in the heart of the city of New Delhi - Connaught Place, the art hub seamlessly integrates two Galleries, a Cafeteria, a curio Store, a Resource Center and ancillary transitional spaces that can double up to accommodate seminars, symposia, workshops and other art activities. Religare Arts.i also aspires to create and rejuvenate a space that enables art-artist-public interactions through a multiplicity of experiences and activities.

Some of the exhibitions that have taken place at the gallery since its opening in October 2008 are: Outer Circle, 16 contemporary and emerging artists; Phaneng: A Journey into Personal Engagement, 12 large scale black and white portrait photographs – Samar Jodha; Tribute Wall - three French graffiti artists - Dezer, Migwel and Keflione; Zip Files (group show, Edited By Ranjit Hoskote) etc.

For more information, please log on to www.religarearts.com

“Religare Enterprises Limited proposes, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make a rights issue of its equity shares to its existing shareholders and has filed a draft letter of offer (“DLOF”) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (“SEBI”). The DLOF is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the websites of the lead manager at www.enam.com. Investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to the same, please refer to the section titled “Risk Factors” of the DLOF.”

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