



it's all Rheydt, Kolkata 2011 © Gregor Schneider

Gregor Schneider

it's all Rheydt

October 10 - November 22, 2014

WAKO WORKS OF ART is pleased to present a new exhibition *it's all Rheydt* by a German artist Gregor Schneider. This will be his 6th solo show with us.

The focal work in this exhibition, *it's all Rheydt, Kolkata 2011* was a project held in Kolkata, the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal, in order to participate in one of the largest festivals of Durga Puja which is to celebrate the eternal power of Hindu Goddess, Durga.

Supported by the German foreign office, the artist was officially invited to take a part in the occasion as to be the highlight of the inaugural event, the *Germany and India Year 2011-12*.

His creation was a temporal model pandal shell; that is where the goddess is housed on a podium and to be worshipped. The artist replicated a banal road-side of a city of Rheydt, through a collaboration with local artisans employing local materials. Then the road replica is set upright, vertical to the actual ground. Traditionally, the goddess figures placed inside was to be released to let go in the sacred Hooghly River in order to complete the ritual at the end of festival. The artist however pulled out sluiced religious idols at the downstream and brought back to Germany for later display as sculptural figures.

“Rheydt” is his hometown in Germany where the representative architectural work *Totes Haus ur* has been started since 1985, which a version won the Golden Lion for Best Pavillion in *the 49th Venice Biennale*. This city is an essence penetrating his entire oeuvre. In this project, the thematic replication and signature architectural style are rooted and once again appeared in Indian traditional festivity.

The complete series of photo works of another architectural underground installation in Napoli; *400 Black Dead End* (2006) is also presented along with the other notable works.

Schneider's first large-scaled architectural installation in Japan, *German Angst* is highlighted in ongoing *Yokohama Triennale 2014*.

About the artist:

Gregor Schneider (b. 1969) is one of the most important German conceptual artist of our time. He received the Golden Lion for Best pavillion at *the 49th Venice Biennale* (2001) for *Totes Haus ur Venedig 2001* presenting German Pavilion. He has been the subject of large-scale solo exhibitions world wide including MOCA (2003) and K21, Dusseldorf (2007), and Peill Prize was awarded to the artist in 2008. His recent production of site-specific works, such as *Cube* series and *21 Beach Cells on Bondi Beach* (2007) have placed him at the center of controversy. In 2011, he participated in a collaboration *it's all Rheydt* with local artists for Durga Puja festival. Later in 2013, he attempted a version in Kassel where Documenta was held, which was "reviewed", and therefore withdrawn which again raised a censorship issue in art establishment. In 2014, the artist received the Wilhelm Loth Prize award. He lives and works in Rheydt.

Exhibition Data:

Gregor Schneider *it's all Rheydt* October 10 - November 22, 2014

WAKO WORKS OF ART

11:00 - 19:00, closed on Sun., Mon. and national holidays.

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