

PRESS RELEASE

GOUTAM GHOSH

Reptiles

23 March – 19 May 2019

Goutam Ghosh, *Trick in the tent*, 2018, Courtesy Standard (Oslo)



Opening reception

Friday, 22 March 2019, 7 pm

Introduction: Katja Schroeder (Artistic Director)

The Kunsthaus Hamburg is pleased to present the artist Goutam Ghosh's first institutional solo exhibition in Europe. With his paintings, Ghosh navigates the various influences of traditional Indian philosophies and rational sciences that he succeeds to translate into an autonomous and poetic imagery that combines abstraction and figurativeness. His gestural, detailed and at times sign-like paintings are informed by a variety of disciplines including religion, magic, geology, music, and mathematics.

Ghosh finds a direct and important reference in the texts of the Indian scholar Kaustubh Das, who from a present-day perspective deals with the Indian philosophical movement of Tantra – the teachings of consciousness as the basis of both human thought and action. Just like the artist's intellectual references are rooted in the traditions of his homeland, the formal languages of his paintings are independent and contemporary. Ghosh's works are mostly created by means of a glazing gouache technique on wax paper or roughly woven linen and presented unframed or mounted on plywood panels. With his visual vocabulary, Ghosh points to the dependency of the human process of cognition on quantifiable data and patterns that are combined with filigree, amorphous or animistic forms in his works.

The paintings featured in the show are supplemented by the 16mm film PAARA. This work was produced in collaboration with the Norwegian artist Jason Havneraas in India in 2018 and relates the fictive recollections of a 90-year-old magician. The story unfolds in partially surrealistic, staged scenes against the backdrop of impressive pictures of the landscape. In both the film and the paintings, the artist repeatedly leads us to the structure of the pattern as the link between mind and object, between academic disciplines and metaphysics. Both are accommodated in Ghosh's abstract-poetic oeuvre.

Curated by Katja Schroeder

Goutam Ghosh (*1979, Nabadwip, Indien) lives and works in Santiniketan, India. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Oslo and at the Maharaja Sayaji Rao University, Baroda in India. He had solo shows with STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo (2018/15) and Project 88, Mumbai (2017) and participated in international group exhibitions: David Zwirner Gallery, London (2017); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2017); The Renaissance Society, Chicago (2016); Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai (2016); Galleria Raucci/Santamaria, Neapel (2015) at al.

PROGRAMME ACCOMPANYING THE EXHIBITION

Artist talk

Monday, 08.04.2019, 7 pm

Catherine David (Centre Pompidou) in conversation with Goutam Ghosh

Guided tours with the curator

Thursday, 04.04.2019, 6 pm

Thursday, 18.04.2019, 6 pm

Sunday, 05.05.2019, 3 pm

Special Programme for the Long Night of Museums

Saturday, 18.05.2019, 6 pm – 2 am

Familyday – free admission for everyone

Sunday, 19.05.2019, 11 am – 6 pm

With kind support by the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung who awarded Goutam Ghosh with their grant program „catalogues for young artists“, enabling the realization of the exhibition and the production of an accompanying catalogue.



Alfried Krupp von Bohlen
und Halbach-Stiftung

We will gladly provide you with press material upon request.

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