



Rajan's Psychopathic Killer Fan

Beyond Control

Documenta artist C K Rajan infuses madness in household objects for his latest solo show

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DEFORMED objects, ripped off their utility, discover new meanings in the art world. C K Rajan, Hyderabad-based artist, makes that happen with his latest solo exhibition *Mad Furnitures and Psychic Objects* at Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Colaba.

At the exhibition, on till October 16, he showcases everyday tools and household appliances, which are repositioned and re-modelled in various ways. Take for example, a humongous ceiling fan — called “psychopathic killer fan” by the artist — that hangs dangerously low. Painted blue, red and white it spins a pun on the worldwide fan-following of the American culture. Something that Rajan labels as “a destructive fad”.

This 50-year-old documenta artist's attempt is anything, but politically correct. “There is a possibility of man-made objects going crazy. If man can go mad, why not man-made objects? Such a situation could be an ultimate disaster since in the end objects are what survive with



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man,” he says. One of Rajan's displayed mad objects, a shovel titled ‘Guest Faculty from the Third Reich’ exemplifies his political satire. The object refers to the Nazi era of German history and shows how it challenged our expectations of a civilized society. “The post capitalist scenario of individuals, major economic institutions or governments is still governed by a form of fascism. It is veiled as either left or right,” he says.

Rajan is best known for his politically-charged collages made out of newspaper that he created during the 1990s. In 2007, his collages were shown

alongside famous American artist Kerry James Marshall at documenta 12 in Kassel, Germany. Documenta is one of the most important exhibitions of modern and contemporary art which takes place every five years in Germany. Rajan's other exhibitions at international platforms include the Santhal Family at MuHKA, Antwerp (2008), Art of Modern India at IVAM, Valencia (2009) and *Have I Ever Opposed You?* at Gallery Faye Fleming & Partner, Geneva (2010).

Despite the international exposure, the artist continues be grounded and fills hours of solitude with art. The only change that is visible in his latest show is in the medium that he employs. Ranjana Steinruecke, owner of the gallery, tracks this change. “Over the years, I have closely studied Rajan's work. An effort to move out of the traditional two-dimensional form was always evident. He would paste strips of newspaper on the collages to add dimensions to his art. But, to accentuate the madness of his latest theme, he had to make his art with three-dimensional objects,” she says.