
Tasveer is delighted to announce the exhibition, Andreas Volwahsen - Living Architecture, at Saffronart New Delhi. The exhibition is organised by Tasveer, and sponsored by Zuari Cement.

Born in 1941 in Germany, Volwahsen is chiefly celebrated as an architectural historian, however, this exhibition focuses on an element of his work that has long demanded more attention – his photography. The photographs were originally taken to illustrate his first two academic books, ‘Living Architecture: Islamic India’ (1968) and ‘Living Architecture: India’ (1971). As illustrations they add an extraordinary dimension to his work, but also rise far above the merely descriptive. They demonstrate his aspirations for a deeper understanding of ancient Indian architecture, but also reveal strong formal undercurrents of German modernist photography.

The focus on form, at the expense of context, make for very striking images, which move towards abstraction. Structured compositions and objectivity give the iconographic sculptures, sumptuous details and embellishments on Hindu temples, and profusion of forms, the necessary space they need to be truly admired. Rather than staging a tourist attraction, Volwahsen’s perspective invites the viewer to comprehend the design, geometry and technical accomplishment of India’s architecture.

Volwahsen was troubled by a trend in Western observers to look upon India’s architecture with reverence, rather than understanding, he found that the immense wealth of forms and lack of immediately recognisable European comparisons made viewing India’s temples, mosques and palaces a challenge for those in the West. His academic research gave him unique insights into India’s complex religious and social history, and these striking photographs demonstrate his astute cultural understanding.

The images function both as works of art, and as an investigation into the canons and laws that governed the work of ancient Indian architects. The consistent use of black and white and balanced square format compositions mute distracting details, encouraging the viewer to penetrate the potentially bewildering and overwhelming designs of the intricate architectural structures so that the focus is on form and symmetry. This is especially apparent in his close ups, where the refined use of light, contrasting tonal fields and use of angles takes the subject matter of archways, domes and columns towards pure form and abstraction.

Private view
February 28, 7 pm - 9 pm

Exhibition continues
March 01 - 14
Monday to Saturday 11 am - 7 pm
Sunday 11 am - 4 pm

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Tasveer

Established in 2006, Tasveer began as the first pan-Indian gallery dedicated exclusively to photography. They have established themselves as one of the leading photography venues in India, with gallery spaces in Bangalore, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Representing some of the world’s most prolific and celebrated photographers, Tasveer is committed to broaden the awareness of and appreciation for fine art photography. The gallery maintains an ongoing close creative relationship with Indian arts focused organisations as well as strong collaborative relationships with other galleries, artists, corporate partners and sponsors.

Saffronart

A global company with deep Indian roots, Saffronart was founded in 2000 on the strength of a private passion. Remaining committed to this passion and personal values, today Saffronart is a strong and successful international auction house that both embraces and drives change. With over thirteen years of experience in auctioning Indian art online, Saffronart is committed to serving the growing community of Indian collectors, while also creating a cultural bridge to India for both the global Indian diaspora and the international community at large. Providing a platform that enables access to view, purchase and become involved in the development of Indian art, jewelry and collectibles globally, Saffronart has set global benchmarks for online auctions and was recently the subject of a case study at Harvard Business School. In October 2008, Saffronart extended its unique online auction platform to host its inaugural sale of Fine Jewels and Watches, adding a new dimension to its online and market presence, and in April 2010, Saffronart leveraged its online presence and global reach to introduce a new service – Prime Properties in India. Since December 2011 Saffronart has offered Indian antiquities including Sculptures, Artefacts and Miniature paintings on its auction platform in auctions conducted by Collectibles Antiques India Private Limited. Most recently, Saffronart held its inaugural auctions of Folk & Tribal Art & Objects in August 2012, Art Deco in October 2012 and Travel & Leisure in July 2013. Saffronart has held its first ever live auction dedicated to works of Francis Newton Souza: Works from the collection of Keren Souza Kohn in September 2013 in Mumbai. With online and live auctions, a host of technology enabled services for clients, and a global presence in Mumbai, New York, London and Delhi, Saffronart has broadened and simplified access to Indian art, jewelry, collectibles and real estate.

Vacheron Constantin

Vacheron Constantin, the world’s oldest Swiss Haute Horlogerie manufacture with more than 250 years of history echo their key values in India; a quest for excellence, respect for traditions and a calling to perpetuate the skills that combine virtuosity with precision, by partnering with Tasveer for the gallery’s eight season of photography exhibitions in 2013/14. Vacheron Constantin have a long history and commitment to the support of international art and cultural institutions, they have partnered with the Opéra National de Paris, the French Institut National des Métiers d’Art, the New York City Ballet.
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