

Berlin, 08/09/2010

ARNDT is delighted to present the solo show **LIKEWISE** by the artist **Jitish Kallat** from 06 October 2010 to 31 January 2011.

The Indian artist Jitish Kallat creates with this exhibition a fantasy image of the living conditions of Mumbai's inhabitants. His grotesque-surreal, partial ironical works capture the psychological strains of the mega-metropolis and describe the morbidity that lies behind the enormous economic and social changes in India.

"Eat or to be eaten" is the question. From the encrusted relief surface of the gigantic, oversized kerosene stove *Annexation* bizarre, apelike creatures stare attentively or even provokingly at us. Other creatures rather look like rats clinging to something edible with their claws. Some monsters are even devouring each other. Kallat points metaphorically at the daily struggle for food that is constantly intensifying, food is getting scarce and prices are being raised.

The two large triptychs surrounding the sculpture visualize the same struggle. Little people, cars and busses are swarming through the hair of the persons waiting for their luggage on the pictures *Baggage Claim*. Beige blotches have formed beneath the mouths of the bronze gargoyles, which were inspired by those which spout out rainwater at Victoria Terminus in Mumbai. From there a black, oily substance is leaking out, its borderline is comprised of delineating factories, houses and water towers. This new civilisation, fallen from heaven, has already infected the speech bubbles and the language of the people waiting respectively. Nevertheless or just because of that the people waiting remain in apathy. The great city's inferno literally goes to their heads.

The backlit photography *Condition Apply* is reminiscent of the diagrams in schoolbooks, which illustrate the orbit of the moon or other planets. On closer observation chapattis, Indian flatbread, can be identified, representing the phases of the moon. The basic food is in an unreachable distance. Where darkness should subside only bread crumbs can be seen.

With the photo series *Chlorophyll Park* Kallat literally pulls the rug out from under Mumbai's chaotic traffic. Lawn is covering the surface of the roads. Though the numerous vehicles don't leave any traces in the fresh green, nothing and nobody moves. The grass is only growing. Time comes to a fairy-tale like standstill. For a moment Kallat succeeds in disrupting the daily struggle for life.

Jitish Kallat (*1974) is represented in major exhibitions of contemporary Indian art. For instance: "The Empire Strikes Back: Indian Art Today", Saatchi Gallery, London (2010), "Chalo! Indien: Eine neue Ära indischer Kunst", Essl Museum – Kunst der Gegenwart, Klosterneuburg, Austria, and Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (both 2009). Among others the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney (2008) dedicated him a solo show, and until January 2nd 2011 his site-specific work *Public Notice 3* can be seen at „The Art Institute of Chicago“. Next to his engagement as an artist he is publishing scientific texts in art related magazines and catalogues.