

06 **HITLIST** the guide

Beauty and the beast

On his first trip to India, celebrated German artist Martin Eder looks set to engage art connoisseurs with his exhibition, *Monsters of Silence*, which will focus on questioning the images that are presented as icons of beauty and desirability



(Above and bottom left) Paintings created by Martin Eder for *Monsters of Silence*

ART

**RUCHIKA KHER**

ruchika.kher@mid-day.com

The old adage, beauty lies in the eye of the beholder, is one that is known to most people, but for German artist Martin Eder, beauty has several other connotations. Presenting imageries of the existence of dark elements amid something considered beautiful is a constant focus for Eder. Now, the artist will showcase this passion in India for the first time with his exhibition, *Monsters of Silence*.

"It will be a classic painting show with dream-like situations from nature. Mixed with subconscious experiences, the protagonists will take the viewer in an uncanny but beautiful underworld," reveals the 45-year-old

artist. "Though the paintings have a definite beauty, when viewed closely, one will discover that an intruder has broken into paradise and darkness has crept — albeit silently — into its ecosystem," he adds.

While Eder's work has been receiving acclaim worldwide, his art often delves into the territory of the abject with unsettling, even disturbing personifications of human desires. But the artist argues that it is not his work that is uncanny; it is the world that surrounds us. "The title of my current exhibition, *Monsters of Silence*, suggests destruction and monstrosity that sometimes lies in



Artist Martin Eder.

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stillness, lethargy and non-reaction. Violence is hidden in everyday life. The Monster is not a fictional creature; it can be an ignorant society. A loss of empathy," he explains.

Eder, who is also a musician, doesn't see shock value in his work, and he doesn't like to offend anybody. "My work popped-up questions, but TV news has more shock value than my work. It is the search for harmony in art that confuses some people. I am a witness to life. I simply report what I see," capsules Eder.

The artist's interest in science and nature has underpinned his

work. The Chaos Theory intrigues him as he leads us in, "Throw a handful of sticks in the air and see what pattern turns out on the floor. Likewise, hit piano keys blindfolded and backwards — things that take shape without human control attract me."

On a lighter note, when we quizzed him of his preference — music or art, his reply was equally refreshing. "Music and art is the same. The ear and the eye end in the same brain. Music is pictures for the ears. Maybe, music is more directly enjoyable."

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