



Mezzaterra, watercolour on paper, 40x60 inches, 2015

Mezzaterra, An exhibition of watercolours and drawings by Indrapramit Roy.

Opening at 5.30pm, 20 November (Friday) to 12 December, 2015 at Galerie-88, Kolkata.

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This is Indrapramit Roy's third solo-show with Galerie 88. After hosting his first solo 'Invisible Cities' in the city of his birth in 1994 and 'Liminal Zone' in 2012, we present his latest show '*Mezzaterra*', previewing on 20 November, 2015.

Roy's engagement with painting has always been with materiality; right from his very early experiments, his journey into multiple and shaped canvases, the corrugated cardboard carton period, and lately in his combination of drawing, marking, painting and overlaying actions that mark his watercolour series.

The artist takes away the human agency as the prime actors of the drama, but the human presence is everywhere. His spaces are frozen moments of cinematic tension that goes much beyond photo-based mediatic realism. These everyday spaces carry the empathy of intimacy achieved through experiences and memories. They seem to want to tell a story and stay silent about what the story could be. A sense of silence, of foreboding, a hint of violence lurks just behind the surface of the quotidian.

Mezzaterra means common ground. It is an imagined territory, an idea, but a very real and pervasive one, where echoes and reflections add depth and perspective, where identities are malleable and overlapping and not clear cut and well defined, where binaries are not the only defining theme. Inhabiting the *mezzaterra* means one is both inside and outside of language, of culture and the stance can be both critical and empathetic. Roy also feels that this hospitable *mezzaterra*, where differences enrich rather than threaten and clash, is our civilizational legacy. It is under attack from all sides and needs to be defended.

Indrapramit Roy studied art at Santiniketan (BFA) and Baroda (MFA) and went on to study for a further MA in Painting from Royal College of Art, London on Inlaks scholarship. While in RCA he received Erasmus exchange grants to study for a term each at Paris and Berlin. He has had 16 solo-shows all over India and in the US. He has participated in important group shows and workshops in important venues in India and abroad. Indrapramit is also a Fulbright scholar and in 2013 invited for a residency in Siena, Italy. Recently he has completed a large mural for the new Terminal T-2 of the Mumbai International Airport. He writes on art and has been teaching art at M.S. University of Baroda for the past 20 years.
