

Galerie ISA is pleased to present Edouard Baribeaud's first solo exhibition in India, entitled: "The Nocturnal Vault". The show is comprised of a series of works inspired by Indian miniature paintings of the Mughal era, which the artist encountered during a research trip to India in 2014. In line with the centuries-old fascination of merging differing artistic styles, histories and realities across cultures, Baribeaud has succeeded in demonstrating a powerful and innovative conflation of the Indian miniature style, Western art historical *sujets* and contemporary everyday life elements in his stage-like sceneries.

In the work titled *Hold Onto Me*, the viewer observes a woman's back against a puzzling *mise en scene* of intense patterns and shapes. While the depiction of the female figure is clearly reminiscent of the well known motif the "Grande Odalisque", by the French orientalist Jean August Dominique Ingre, a closer look at the work not only reveals some common woollen socks on the woman's feet but also the characteristic complexity of Baribeaud's unique depiction of the setting: the figure is positioned on a bizarre element that oscillates between a lightning-struck tree trunk and a piece of concrete shaped by a futuristic casting mould. Opposite her, the scenery unfolds into an unusual draping of a background panel of ornamental patterns: a pitch-black colour-field that seems to crawl from nowhere into the scene and a headless visual citation of a masterpiece of the Italian Early Renaissance on a flat, cloud shaped piece of stage decor. Textile patterning and lush plant life convert easily into a mural or a stage décor, the everyday becomes the exceptional, the known morphs into the unknown.

The artworks in "The Nocturnal Vault" assemble various motifs, moods, scenes and figures from ancient époques, disparate cultures and contemporary contexts, each creating a visual excerpt from a distinctive little world that contains peculiar stories. Baribeaud confronts the viewer with a story half told, leaving him or her with a desire to extend the scene in order to discover the broader context, like film stills waiting to be played. What links the individual artworks is the artist's emphasis on depicting various twilight zones between dusk and dawn, evoking situations and moments of the in-between and capturing the beauty of mutability.

Background on the artist:

Born in 1984 to a French father and a German mother, Edouard Baribeaud was brought up in France and studied book illustration and printmaking at Paris' prestigious École Nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs. In 2010 he moved to Berlin, where he has since created an impressive body of works on paper. His work is characterised by his bilingualism and dual cultural identity. Baribeaud has an astonishing command of the classical techniques (pen and ink drawing, painting in watercolours and gouache paint) - and delights in mixing them freely, combining seemingly incompatible styles within the same drawing. He likes to contrast the mundane with the mythical, to lead archaic figures through modern landscapes - and in so doing, to blend real personal experiences with invented memories.