

PAST MODERN

Galerie Isa in Mumbai has been dedicatedly showing artists from Europe since 2011. Amparo Sard, the Spanish artist who is often stark and decorative at the same time, showed at the gallery from the 18th of November to the 17th of January. Sard punctures chrome paper or plexiglass to create designs – a forest of trees with their trunks cut off, leaves becoming birds and expansive arboreal forms caught in storms are some of the images that greet you as you step into the gallery to respond to *Boundaries*.

Continuing his commitment to featuring international art in India, Ashwin Thadani, founder of Isa, returns with a show featuring Matthias Bitzer, the German artist. Titled *Islands and Chains* and mounted from the 3rd of February to the 25th of April, the show features a series of paintings (acrylic and ink on canvas), mixed media works and sculptures. Bitzer is known for setting up confrontations between different modernist aesthetic registers – realistic portraits of women have geometric Art Deco elements painted in the foreground in some works and kaleidoscopic colour shards reveal and conceal enigmatic faces in others. The untitled sculpture that pays homage ostensibly to the Duchampian readymade is quite elegantly structured: there are wheels within wheels and wheels cutting wheels, making the work a whimsical but delightful construction.

KALA BHARATI



Matthias Bitzer. *Untitled.* Wood, metal, wire, spray-paint.
146 cms x 92 cms x 101 cms. 2014.
Image courtesy Galerie Isa, Mumbai, and the artist.