

Other preview

Res Derelictae II

Belgian artist Peter Buggenhout is going to earn himself some curious glances when *Res Derelictae II* opens this fortnight at Warehouse at 3rd Pasta. As if it wasn't strange enough that he makes his sculptures out of what he calls "abject trash", the tour de force of his debut exhibition in India has been described by his gallery as "an enormous, vibrating trilling dust machine". It's a veritable nightmare for anyone who likes clean tabletops made that much more frightening by Buggenhout's promise that walking through his installation will make the viewer a part of the "incomprehensible non-structure".

The twentieth century has seen some unlikely material – jute, aluminium board, driftwood, dead animals – being used as media in art. Perhaps it is the looming

threat of environmental collapse that is behind the idea of recycled art. Crafting something valuable out of garbage has excited a number of artists in recent times. Contemporary German art's enfant terrible Ha Schultz in 1999 created "Trash People", an army of life-sized human forms sculpted out of garbage, and has stationed them in different parts of the world over the years. Closer home, Vivan Sundaram's most recent show *Trash* was made up of discarded material. Buggenhout is similarly intrigued by the idea of transforming a discarded object into an aesthetic subject.

For his debut exhibition in India, Buggenhout, with the help of curator Sophie van Loo, is looking to convert the gallery into a labyrinth with his dust sculptures. All of his works are titled "The Blind Leading the



The Blind Leading the Blind

Blind", a reference to a painting by the same title by Flemish painter Pieter Brueghel the Elder. Using material like iron slag, polystyrene and dust, Buggenhout crafts sculpture that he hopes will open his viewers' eyes to curious forms that are oddly-futuristic in their form and yet evoke nostalgia for being worn and weathered.

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See Warehouse at 3rd Pasta.