

# BETWEEN BUILDING & BREATHING



Home Tree Pool (top) Abandoned Roadside (below), both acrylic on canvas

Australian artist Paul Davies' show in Delhi is about the delicate play of urban structures and natural spaces

In cities such as ours, beautiful living has always been about the balance of building and breathing, of structures and spaces. Bringing out this delicate play of nature and architecture is renowned Australian artist Paul Davies, with his Built in Translation II series that opens today at gallery Art District XIII.

The homes in Davies' works invite the viewer into the picture. They feature, among others, Le Corbusier's French modernist icon, the Villa Savoye or "machine for living". Le Corbusier also produced many buildings in India, notably in Chandigarh. However, in Davies' work, devoid of human form and repeated within foreign settings, these textbook homes become eclectic settings in which the viewer is invited to consider a variety of possible narratives. Davies' method involves stencils, delicately cut by the artist, which led him to investigate the work of sculptor Rachel Whiteread, in particular the cast interior space of her Turner Prize winning, House.

"The focus of my work is the relationship between the natural and the built environments. It is based on appropriation, as the works are created using stencils, which are hand cut, painted to juxtapose, repeat and mirror subjects. This process, for me, refers not just to the way Australia, since colonisation, imported architectural styles to strive for a cultural identity, but also highlights the "struggle" against what is seen as the unforgiving natural environment," says the Sydney-based artist. What's also interesting is that the gallery is a new 2300 square feet space, and celebrates the numeric XIII, considered inauspicious by some.

"I first had the pleasure of seeing Paul's work when I was in Sydney, four years back. My friends, Bradley and Collette, took me for an opening show at the famous Tim Olsen gallery and I was mesmerised by what I saw. In this world of cutting edge contemporary art and a time in which a lot of galleries and art critics are now looking at installations more than paintings, Paul brings to life a series of stunning canvases inspired by the landscape around him," says Kapil Chopra, mentor, Art District XIII and president, The Oberoi Group.



## PAUL BRINGS TO LIFE STUNNING CANVASES INSPIRED BY THE LANDSCAPE AROUND HIM

Kapil Chopra, mentor, Art District XII



Pool Home Collage

BECAUSE GOOD MAGIC DESERVES ACCOLADES



Nominated Best Chinese Restaurant



# Catch it here

WHAT: Built in Translation II  
WHEN: April 12 - June 12  
TIMINGS: 11am - 7pm  
WHERE: Art District XIII  
F-2 13, Ground Floor, Lado Sarai.  
Entry by invite today

