***Home (1) 2pics***

Through SOMA, the Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart in Berlin showcases an immersive installation by Belgian artist Carsten Höller that engages all the senses. The space is filled with the melodies of canary songs and the fragrance of reindeer. Carsten Höller, born in Brussels in 1961, crafted his most intricate and sophisticated installation with SOMA. The exhibition features twelve reindeer, twenty-four canaries, eight mice, and two flies as its living protagonists.

***Artist (2) 2pics***

Carsten Höller is a Belgian artist known for his multidisciplinary approach, incorporating elements of science, psychology, and architecture into his works. Born in Brussels in 1961, he holds a Ph.D. in agricultural science and has worked extensively in various fields, influencing the conceptual depth of his art.

One of Höller's notable works is the "Test Site" installation at Tate Modern's Turbine Hall in 2006. It featured massive slides that visitors could ride, blending exhilaration with the artistic experience. This playful and interactive piece exemplifies Höller's interest in altering perceptions and engaging the audience physically and emotionally.

Another significant creation is "SOMA," showcased at the Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart in Berlin. This ambitious installation, crafted in 2020, represents Höller's most complex work to date. In "SOMA," living elements such as twelve reindeer, twenty-four canaries, eight mice, and two flies coexist within a multisensory environment. The exhibition explores the intersections between the natural world, sensory experiences, and traditional notions of art. Höller invites viewers to reconsider boundaries and immerse themselves in a dynamic, living ecosystem, with the fragrance of reindeer and the melodies of canaries contributing to a unique and thought-provoking artistic encounter.

***Potion (3)***

Step into the captivating world of ancient Indian traditions and spirituality with Soma, a mysterious plant that held deep meaning in Vedic rituals. In these sacred ceremonies, the juice of this unidentified plant was a key offering, connecting people with the divine.

The process involved crushing the plant's stalks between stones, filtering the juice through sheep’s wool, and mixing it with water and milk. This special mixture, offered as a gift to the gods, symbolized a solemn link between the earthly and divine realms. What remained of the sacred soma was then shared among the priests and the person conducting the ritual, creating a heightened, possibly hallucinogenic, experience.

As a deity, Soma was revered as the "master of plants," a healer of diseases, and a giver of wealth. Its appeal wasn't just in the ceremonies but also in the belief that it had exciting properties, providing a special experience to those who consumed it.

Embark on a virtual journey to uncover the secrets of Soma, a respected element that played a crucial role in the ancient spiritual practices of India.

***Exhibition (4)***

The "SOMA" exhibition by Carsten Höller, presented at the Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart in Berlin, offered a multisensory journey that immersed visitors in a unique and complex environment. Höller, known for his innovative installations, crafted his most intricate work to date with "SOMA."

The exhibition featured living protagonists, including twelve reindeer, twenty-four canaries, eight mice, and two flies, creating a dynamic and unpredictable ambiance. The space resonated with the songs of canaries and the fragrance of reindeer, engaging not only the visual but also auditory and olfactory senses.

The setup involved a meticulous process, reminiscent of a living ecosystem, where the reindeer, canaries, mice, and flies coexisted within the artistic landscape. The concept likely aimed to explore the intersections between the natural world, sensory experiences, and the viewer's perception, inviting participants to reconsider traditional boundaries between art and life.

***Work Citations***

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