

REGEN PROJECTS

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Art

Randy Kennedy

A museum exhibition featuring a lot of "non-objects" might sound like a fairly meager aesthetic experience (not to mention a raw deal for the admission price). But in the hands of the highly decorated British sculptor **ANISH KAPOOR**, non-objects — his term for some of the near-cabalistic trompe l'oeil pieces he has made over the last two decades — can take on a material lushness rarely found in the contemporary art world these days. On Friday the **INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART** in Boston will open the first museum survey of Mr. Kapoor's work in the United States in more than 15 years, with 14 works he has made since 1980 (10 of which have never been shown in the states before). The show is a homecoming of sorts; in 1985 the Institute mounted his first solo exhibition at a United States museum.

Known here mostly for his "Cloud Gate," the 125-ton stainless steel highly mirrored blob that has become a tourist magnet in Chicago since its unveiling in 2005, Mr. Kapoor has long explored the paradox of incorporeality in sculptural mass. As Nicholas Baume, the Institute's chief curator, writes in an essay in the exhibition's catalog, Mr. Kapoor's work "unabashedly aspires to the mythic" in an art world generally suspicious of such transcendental leanings. The show's title, "Past, Present and Future," takes its name from one of the recent works that will be on display, a dome of almost blood-red wax whose form is defined by the slow rotation of a metal arc through 180 degrees. Kapoor fans unable to make it to Boston can also visit concurrent shows of his work at the Gladstone Gallery's two locations in Chelsea. *Institute of Contemporary Art, 100 Northern Avenue, (617) 478-3100, icaboston.org, through Sept. 7. Gladstone Gallery, 530 West 21st Street, gladstonegallery.com, through Aug. 15; and 515 West 24th Street, through June 21.*



COURTESY OF REGEN PROJECTS

"S-Curve" (2006), one of the sculptor Anish Kapoor's "non-objects." Mr. Kapoor's work can currently be seen in both Boston and New York.