

FREE Information sheet. Please take one.

George Chakravarthi

Thirteen

20 March to 21 June 2014

Evoking death, drama and identity, George Chakravarthi re-imagines thirteen Shakespearean characters who meet their ends through suicide. Marking the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth, this is the first time *Thirteen* has been shown outside the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon. In his series of powerful self-portraits, Delhi-born Chakravarthi assumes the roles of doomed characters, exploring themes of gender and identity manipulation, often central to Shakespeare's plays.

Chakravarthi says, "*changing perceptions of suicide seemed a rich area to explore, especially in the context of our current political history and the direct connection to Shakespeare's representation of death as an act of courage, passion and honour.*"

Chakravarthi worked behind the scenes with the Royal Shakespeare Company's costume department to dramatically reconstruct his identity and take on the guise of each character. Each image is layered with textures and surfaces drawn from diverse sources including cobwebs, mould and precious stones, to create complex images.

To find out more, pick up a free information sheet, browse the reading area, watch the short film in the foyer or come along to our a free artist talk on Saturday 12 April at 2pm. The DVD *George Chakravarthi: Unseen* is available to buy in our shop, priced £12.50.

About the artist George Chakravarthi was born in New Delhi, India in 1969 and moved to the UK at the age of ten. He often explores socially accepted definitions of gender, sexual and racial identity within live, photographic and video performances. He has performed and exhibited nationally in venues including Site Gallery, Royal Academy of Arts, Tate Modern, Victoria and Albert Museum, and internationally, Mousonturm (Germany), Tilburg Dance Academy (The Netherlands), and The Queens Gallery (India). He has been commissioned by the BBC, Artangel, INIVA, Arts Council England, The Live Art Development Agency and The British Council. He trained at The University of Brighton, The Royal Academy of Arts and The Royal College of Art and lectures at the University of Brighton. Chakravarthi lives and works in London. www.georgechakravarthi.co.uk

Commissioned by Royal Shakespeare Company

Showing as part of Art in Yorkshire supported by the Art Fund: a celebration of visual art in 22 public art galleries throughout Yorkshire during 2014. www.artinyorkshire.org.uk