



Julus and Other Stories

Shakuntala Kulkarni



Chemould Prescott Road

CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

Queens Mansion | 3rd Floor

G. Talwatkar Marg | Fort

Mumbai 400 001

www.gallerychemould.com

Preview: March 13, 2018

Exhibition on view:
March 14 – April 7, 2018

Julus and other stories - Four projection synchronized video installation

A multimedia project consisting of four synchronized videos, chalk drawings on board, prints of wiped-off chalk drawings and cane accessories.

In 2012, Shakuntala Kulkarni did a body of work titled *Of Bodies, Armour and Cages*, which consisted of sculptures made to the body size of the artist, and head gears made to the size of her head. These cane works have over the years become a signature work of the artist since her early rendering of these sculptures.

In a continuation of the work mentioned above, the film *Julus* is a declaration of the vision that each and every person has equal rights and freedom as an individual, and, as part of a community. Within the space of this declaration Shakuntala Kulkarni has addressed her concern, the violation of the female body, in public and private spaces.

She has dived into memories, archives and histories, taking references from the terracotta warriors of China. As they march, stand or sit, holding spears or swords – visible in their invisibility. As individuals these warriors (the artist posturing in multiple images) speak of power, grace and valor, standing together in strength and unstoppable and fearless, they join the *Julus*, declaring the future they have created for themselves and the community; a future of freedom and equality.

Chalk drawings on board

Kulkarni's relationship with the boards, traces back to more than two decades. Initially, the drawings were forms of communication with the craftsman working on Kulkarni's cane armours, and gradually the context and the manner of drawing shifted.

These boards were diaristic, filled with sketches, scribbles, drawings with charcoal, pencil, paint, rubbings, with further layers of paint to make place for more scribbles and drawings. In the process, some of the colour, drawings, tape marks, remained as stains or markings in the background, with each layer creating a new surface.

The drawings were not planned or structured, nor was their scale or placement. The flexibility and playfulness of the material, and the act of wiping interested her, and she continued to do chalk drawings on board. When the board was full, the drawings were documented and then wiped out.

In this exhibition, *Julus and Other Stories*, the film addresses performance, which is planned and structured with a beginning and an end, the chalk drawings address performativity, an experience of timelessness, and a process. The drawings become free in spirit. They became a visual utterance by which the female protagonists perform a particular act, an act of adorning. Through the drawings, there is now a shaping and scripting of who these protagonists are, with respect to their bodies and action.

Shakuntala Kulkarni (b) 1950

Educational qualifications

G. D. Art (Government Diploma in Art), Sir J.J. School of Arts, Mumbai, 1972; Printmaking, Faculty of Fine Arts, Baroda. Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, 1975- 1976

Selected Solo Exhibitions

of bodies armour and cages, multi media installation with cane sculpture, interactive works, films and performance, Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai, Kiran Nadar Museum of Arts, Noida (Delhi) curated by Roobina Karode, Chhatrapati Shivaji Vastu Sangrahalaya, (Former Prince Of Wales Museum), Mumbai, 2012

And When She Roared The Universe Quaked, multimedia installation with paintings and videos, Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai, 2007

Grandmother's Tales, video installation, interactive/collaborative project with 8 women aged between 78 and 86, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai, colleges, domestic/art spaces, Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore and Goa, 2005-2004

Reduced Spaces, video installation with a walk-in sculpture and a collaborative performance with a dancer/choreographer, Arundhati Chattopadhyaya, Jehangir Art Gallery, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai, Gallery Sumukha, Bangalore, Apeejay multimedia Gallery, New Delhi, 2002-2001

Selected Group Exhibitions

2020 with KGAF, 75 artists, A future under construction, Horniman Circle Gardens, 2018

India Re-Worlded: Seventy Years of Investigating a Nation, curated by Dr. Arshiya Lokhandwala, Gallery Odyssey, 2017-2018

Enactments and each passing day, Exhibition of moving images curated by Roobina Karode and Akansha Rastogi, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Noida, 2016-2017

Julus, Video installation with four synchronized projections, Dhaka Art Summit curated by Diana Campbell, 2016

Aesthetic Bind: Cabinet Closet Wunderkammer, 50 Years of Contemporary Art, curated by Geeta Kapur, Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai; *Trajectories: 19th to 21st Century Printmaking from India and Pakistan*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE, curated by Paula Sengupta, 2014

Female Power MMKA (Museum Voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem) N.L. curated by Mirjam Wester; Art Basel Unlimited, Switzerland, curated by Gianni Jetzer; United Art fair, Delhi curated by Ram Rahaman, 2013

Fairy Tale of Tepantore, a video show, Dhaka, Britto workshop, Bangladesh, 2002

Awards

Prince Claus Fund for setting up multi- disciplinary project *Reduced Spaces*, 2002

Residency, Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal, U.K, 1998

Government of India Cultural Scholarship for painting and Printmaking Akbar Padamsee, Prof. Palsikar, Prof. Somnath Hore, 1975-76

The artist lives and works in Mumbai, India