

Baptist Coelho

“under my skin... under your skin”

A selection of video works (2006 to 2011)

Curator Lina Vincent Sunish

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www.baptistcoelho.com

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Updated: May 2018

To date the compilation has been screened in 20 venues in 19 cities in 13 countries

Centre Pompidou, Paris-France. *Moderator: Catherine David* (14.02.2018)

& Coeverything, Ho Chi Minh City-Vietnam. *Moderator: Trà Nguyễn Bích* (22.11.2017)

Kon Len Khnhom, Phnom Penh-Cambodia. *Moderator: Lyno Vuth* (17.11.2017)

One Eleven Gallery, Siem Reap-Cambodia. *Moderator: Jessica Lim* (15.11.2017)

Tentacles, Bangkok-Thailand. *Moderator: Brian Curtin* (09.11.2017)

Asian Culture Station (ACS), Chiang Mai-Thailand. *Moderator: Sebastien Tayac* (04.11.2017)

Ramanaidu Film School, Hyderabad-India. *Moderator: Prof. Rajkumar Roy* (09.10.2015)

Sunaparanta, Goa-India. *Moderator: Lina Vincent Sunish* (19.09.2015)

Videotage, Hong Kong. *Introduction: Hill Siu* (12.06.2015)

Independent Archive, Singapore. *Moderator: Dr. Nora A. Taylor* (10.03.2015)

Ace House, Yogyakarta-Indonesia. *Moderator: Gintani Swastika* (27.02.2015)

Fotogalleriet, Oslo-Norway. *Moderator: Stephanie von Spreter* (13.05.2014)

Greatmore Studios, Cape Town-South Africa. *Moderator: Nosana Sondiyazi* (20.03.2014)

Hyderabad Literary Festival, India. *Moderator: Koeli Mukherjee Ghosh* (25.01.2014)

DWIH New Delhi, Ahmedabad-India. *Moderator: Lina Vincent Sunish* (16.11.2013)

Corner College, Zurich-Switzerland. *Moderator: Stefan Wagner* (06.11.2013)

S.a.L.E. Docks, Venice-Italy. *Moderator: Daniele Capra* (30.10.2013)

Palais Bleu, Trogen-Switzerland. *Moderator: Karin Bühler* (31.08.2013)

Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation - LAMO, Leh-India. *Moderator: Dr. Christopher Wright* (03.05.2013)

Nepal Bharat Library, Kathmandu-Nepal. *Moderator: Sujan Chitrakar* (04.04.2013)

Curatorial Note (extract)

One cannot interpret Baptist Coelho's work from the surface: it is born, and thrives in the complexities under the apparent façade and probes to what is underneath. The compilation "**under my skin...under your skin**" attempts to string together conceptual underpinnings that recur in his work. The notion of 'skin' is used in both a literal and metaphorical sense, exploring parallel notions of identity and anonymity; corporeality and impermanence; reality and pretence; self and the other, that constitute the foundations of his narratives in video. Coelho has an ability to focus on integral aspects of life that go unnoticed and opens them up for interpretation and questioning. There exists a visceral connection between his life and his art practice. His every project combines elements growing out of his personal history, his immediate environment, and broader concerns of contemporary living.

- *Lina Vincent Sunish, 2013*

Curatorial Note (Extended)

One cannot interpret Baptist Coelho's work from the surface: it is born, and thrives in the complexities under the apparent façade and probes to what is underneath. The compilation **"under my skin...under your skin"** attempts to string together conceptual underpinnings that recur in his work. The notion of 'skin' is used in both a literal and metaphorical sense, exploring parallel notions of identity and anonymity; corporeality and impermanence; reality and pretence; self and the other, that constitute the foundations of his narratives in video. Coelho has an ability to focus on integral aspects of life that go unnoticed and opens them up for interpretation and questioning. There exists a visceral connection between his life and his art practice. His every project combines elements growing out of his personal history, his immediate environment, and broader concerns of contemporary living.

With a view to examining and understanding the many ways in which the artist associates with notions of concealment and revelation, the assemblage of videos draws upon different bodies of work produced by him between the years 2006 and 2011, bringing into purview several that are originally part of more extensive installations, and even documentations of performances.

Coelho's multi-disciplinary works are woven around the visible and intangible layers that characterise human existence and interaction, and build on complex relationships of people with place. He moves between time frames, retrieving histories and documenting the present. In the process of investigation, he uses himself as a medium, often taking on a performative task as in **"What have I done to you?"**, 2011 and **"Beneath it all... I am human..."**, 2009. He stages a secondary reality, assuming the role of a catalyst and triggering collective and individual memory that is often associated with a specific event and location. Here the army uniform denotes an established identity; the protagonist's actions both subvert and examine the established meanings behind the appearance. In an earlier video **"You, me and something else"**, 2009, an ambiguous humanoid form attracts/repulses the viewer with its movements. Here the considered elements are more abstract than narrative, but retain the quality of integrating the viewers' perception for the work's completion.

Reciprocities and responses produce the framework upon which Coelho's projects expand. Through his art, he constantly navigates fine lines between the private and the public, investigating the conflicts and vulnerabilities of communities while also questioning his personal inhibitions and inadequacies. **Cross-Legged**, 2008 and **How to be Your Self (Chapter 01 - I Experience Real Life)**, 2008 in different ways critique the false veneers attached to public life and society's 'gendered' codes. He attempts to understand nuances of masculinity and femininity through the device of charades. Touching upon social conditioning and personal capacity, the video **CORPORAL DIS(CONNECT) Standard Mode & Intoxicated Mode #2**, 2007 constructs a physical 'test' of an intensely personal sort, where the artist applies himself to completing an intricate action in normal and intoxicated states.

Looked at in retrospect, Coelho's focus appears to have moved over the years from experiments in visualising abstract notions of the elements **"Four attempts to understand static and dynamic air"**, 2006; **Limbo**, 2006 and a short commentary on an urban occurrence, **Clang-Bang... Clang-Bang #2**, 2007, to a conscious inclusion of social phenomena and specific narratives of the human condition. In **"Something terrible has happened"**, 2009 this changing perspective becomes apparent; the central element is air, yet the context embraces a global reality indicating the environment and individual responsibility toward it. There is a visible thread of understanding that binds works from different periods in the artist's practice, reflecting a desire to absorb to the core, and articulate all possibilities suggested by a theme. More recently, in terms of engendered meaning, the responses elicited from his work seem to illustrate a progressive shift from the deliberate and conventional, to the extremely random. This quality allows the work to integrate itself into a much wider sphere of practice, multi-layered and cross-cultural in its outreach.

Coelho goes beyond the obvious to reach for an elusive reality under the skin, revealing the unexpected, and the familiar - both. Growing up in a city of extremes like Bombay, and made continuously aware of the conflicts in his rapidly changing contemporary, he chooses to use his art as an interface to engage with it.

- Lina Vincent Sunish, 2013

Audio/Video Notes and Images



“What have I done to you?”, 2011
(3 mins 53 secs)



“Beneath it all... I am human...”,
2009
(11 mins 5 secs)



“You, me and something else”,
2009
(5 mins)



“Something terrible has happened”,
2009
(5 mins 7 secs)



How to be Your Self (Chapter 01 - I Experience Real Life), 2008
(9 mins 30 secs)



Cross-Legged, 2008
(1 min)



Clang-Bang... Clang-Bang #2,
2007
(2 mins 25 secs)



CORPORAL DIS(CONNECT) Standard Mode & Intoxicated Mode #2, 2007
(1 min)



Limbo, 2006
(1 min)



“Four attempts to understand static and dynamic air”, 2006
(3 mins)

Screening's total running time: 29 minutes 57 seconds

Audio/video extract: <https://vimeo.com/84539035>

Complete audio/video: <https://vimeo.com/84539034>
(Please request password)

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“What have I done to you?”, 2011

Performance’s running time: 1 hour to 4 hours

Recording’s audio/video running time:

4 minutes 31 seconds loop

Audio/video recording: <https://vimeo.com/69141196>

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“What have I done to you?”, is a performance where the artist dressed in the complete attire of a British soldier and washed and wiped the feet of each participant who entered the space, maintaining complete silence through the duration. The participants noted down their random thoughts and filled in other personal information.

The act of washing another’s feet is representative of a cross-cultural human attribute of doing service or showing respect. In India, elder’s feet are touched in reverence; youngsters or those less experienced symbolically bow down to the greater knowledge of someone older and ask for blessings. The feet are considered the most unclean part of the body, therefore in many religious spaces one must wash feet prior to entering. Washing someone’s feet is then the ultimate demonstration of love and service. The title of the work refers to Jesus’s words to his twelve disciples on the eve of his capture and crucifixion. He washed each ones feet, (including his betrayer’s) and urged them to do the same to others. The notion of unconditional service and compassion connects back to what a soldier’s duty is considered to be – in war they act almost anonymously for the benefit of the larger society. Ironically, they are ‘washing’ the results of political turmoil created by individuals and institutions of power.

The significance of the work lies in the subtle nuances that go beyond the periphery of the actual act of washing the feet. That the person washing the feet is dressed as a soldier constructs a series of undetermined reactions on the part of the participants; the anonymity of the person, and his apparent silence might register fear, doubt, amusement, questioning or even mirth. Through the act, the control of the proceedings alternates between the washer and the washed; the latter finding him/herself at the most vulnerable when his/her feet are completely immersed and being touched by a stranger. The performance raises ongoing questions about the dynamics between the private and public; between dominance and subservience; between the self and the other.

- Davide Allison



Performance stills

“Beneath it all... I am human...”, 2009

Audio/video running time:

11 minutes 5 seconds loop

Audio/video extract: <https://vimeo.com/69136182>

Complete audio/video: <https://vimeo.com/69135736>

(Please request password)

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Since 1984, India and Pakistan have been zealously guarding their territories on the Siachen Glacier. This endless conflict, over the ownership of the glacier, has been fought at an altitude of 17,000 feet which makes it the coldest battlefield on Earth, with temperatures reaching around -60 ° Celsius.

“Beneath it all... I am human...”, explores the notion that what is concealed is often revealed. This video depicts a Siachen soldier’s clothing being systematically and mysteriously removed to reveal the physical body and nature of a soldier. This act reminds us that beneath the layers of protective gear there exists the human body; an inner layer that is vulnerable.

The meticulous unzipping and unbuttoning is reminiscent of the laborious task that the soldiers endure daily; in a climate where the brutal weather conditions are often life-threatening. In conclusion of this undressing, details of the soldier’s body are exposed and yet this simple act seems to liberate him from the conflict and his identity as a soldier. These contrasts are not without peril; as an exposed body would soon perish in the cold.

- Davide Allison



DVD stills

“You, me and something else”, 2009

Site-specific installation with an electric fan and video

Installation dimensions: variable

Video running time: 5 minutes loop

Video extract: <https://vimeo.com/69034127>

Complete video: <https://vimeo.com/69031702>

(Please request password)

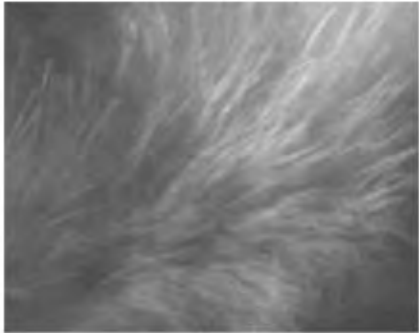
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Through observations, highlighting the dimension of air, **“You, me and something else”**, portrays the impermanence and transient nature of this element and its relationship to all creatures. Normally what we assume to be a fixed and solid form is actually a dynamic process.

Through this multi-sensory, three-dimensional experience, I have employed the use of video to describe a smooth, simplified subject which one must navigate at close range. This technique is reminiscent of early experimental film and was used as a way to explain the visual contrast between flatness and depth. The act of viewing becomes a form of sensuous contact rather than a disembodied process; moving through physical space. Here, I have set the stage to guide the viewer on this multi-dimensional experience and as a result the viewer is drawn into a visceral intimacy with the film's subject. When our eyes move across this richly textured surface of fur, randomly focusing; making us wonder what we are actually seeing, they are functioning like organs of touch.

During this quest to understand the ethereal nature of air, I have drawn a correlation to touch. We, man and animal alike, use touch as a way to re-affirm our reality. I suggest that there is a deeper subconscious desire to come to terms with the transient nature of all things that surround us, including air. Touch is a crucial part of how we define space. While viewers witness touch on a two-dimensional surface, they are immediately drawn into the three-dimensional experience by the slight sensation of a breeze created by a fan. These ideas about touch have been expanded to describe our relationship with animals and that touch not only defines space but also identifies us and the other. I leave room to contemplate this notion that the resolve to touch is a way for us to deal with the complexity and transient nature of our lives. To be touched is to be known.

- Davide Allison



DVD stills

“Something terrible has happened”, 2009

Audio/video running time: 5 minutes 7 seconds

Audio/video extract: <https://vimeo.com/69056899>

Complete audio/video: <https://vimeo.com/69056244>

(Please request password)

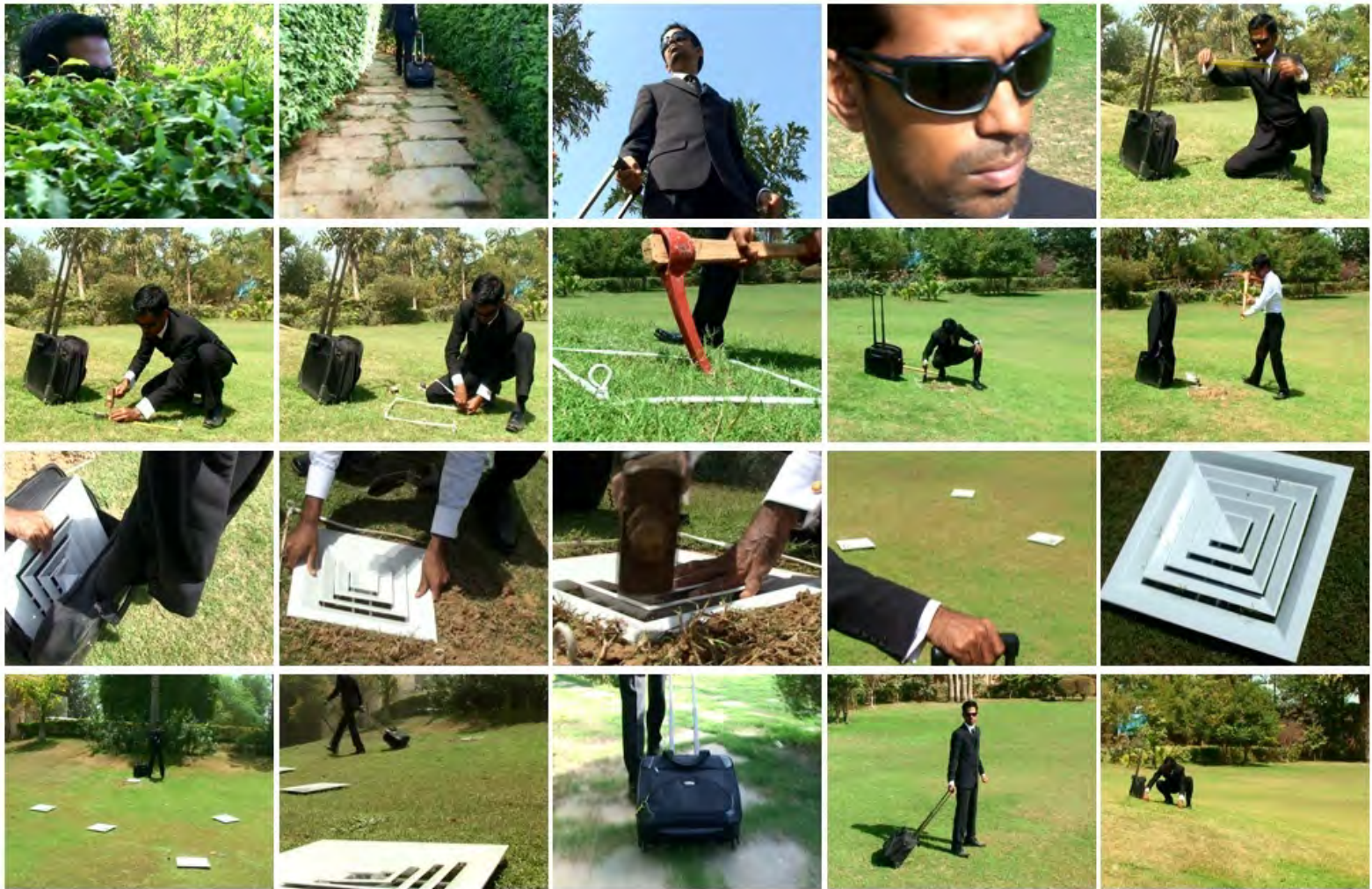
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In the video, **“Something terrible has happened”**, one witnesses an anonymous business man indifferently inserting air-vents into a green landscape. This video was first developed from the site site-specific installation, **“First attempt to understand breathing space”**, 2006, where an industrial air-vent represented air as the essential element that shapes our existence.

During this collision of corporate and natural environments, one begins to question the purpose of an action which appears endless and without resolve. In the background, an audio soundtrack is orchestrated with each brutal blow of the pickaxe; resulting in a landscape scarred with several air-vents.

As the artist explored the notion of ‘cause and effect’, he also examined the physical and emotional mechanisms involved in the endless manufacturing and consuming of household appliances. The video concludes by highlighting the irony of this exploitation; where air has been manipulated for the comfort of mankind and in turn has caused harm to our environment through global warming. While contemplating this seemingly insignificant act of consuming the landscape, the viewer is left on his own to calculate the cost for future generations.

- Davide Allison



DVD Stills

How to be Your Self (Chapter 01 – I Experience Real Life), 2008

Installation with a pair of women's red leather stiletto shoes, acrylic case, wooden pedestal and audio/video

Installation dimensions: variable

2 channel audio/video running time: 9 minutes
30 seconds loop

Audio/video extract: <https://vimeo.com/68957237>

Complete audio/video: <https://vimeo.com/68956315>
(Please request password)

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How to be Your Self (Chapter 01 - I Experience Real Life), is an installation with a twin channel video projection which accompanies a pair of women's red stiletto shoes, placed high on a wooden pedestal. In channel 02, fifty-eight women who vary in: age, occupation, culture and economic backgrounds recite modified excerpts from chapter 01 of the book "How To Be A Lady". This text declares the proper codes of conduct which should be adhered to during social interactions. In the video, the proclamation of claiming these rightful acts of behaviour for women is sharply contrasted with channel 01, where fifty-eight men are seen trying to fit into a pair of women's red, stiletto, shoes.

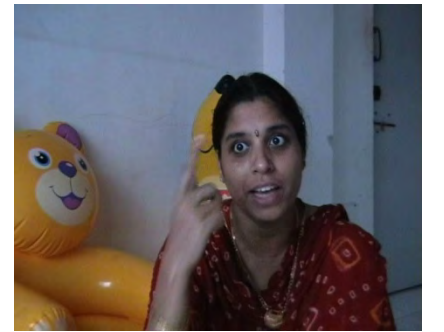
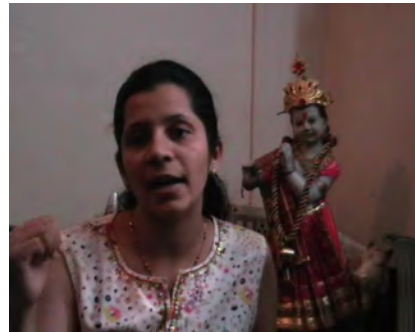
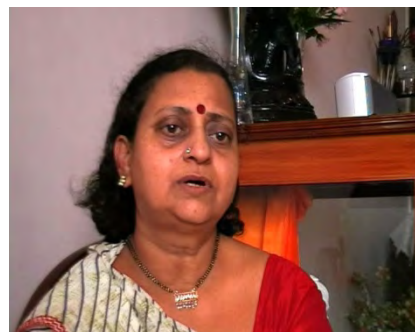
The historical portrayal of women is brought to the forefront by having present-day women recite these notions of correct behaviour. Through storytelling and the juxtaposition of images, the viewer is encouraged to uncover the hidden message from under the naiveté of these spoken words. This need to define women through behaviour often creates inhibition and conflict in society. Through the dialogue, the viewer soon discovers the truth behind the strong emphasis of "doing" rather than "being" and an important message surfaces about the need to be your self without judgment.

Through the reading of these codes of conduct in **How to be Your Self (Chapter 01 - I Experience Real Life)**, women express their dilemma on how to be their own person while societal pressure enforces them to be someone else. The reciting of these phrases becomes a powerful gesture as they allude to an act of obligation and personal testimony. In channel 01, men struggle to fit into a pair of red, stiletto, shoes which also become an allegory for the societal pressures that women endure in order to conform to the patriarchal ideal of beauty. Not only is the act of frivolity evident here but also the sheer will and patience required in accomplishing the task at hand. The artist begins to tell the story with these staged segments involving real people's lives and the diversity of real women surfaces. This absurd story continues to be told on video in the presence of these red shoes which are placed high on top of a pedestal; revealing what appears to be unapproachable and revered in our society.

- Davide Allison



DVD stills Channel 1



DVD stills Channel 2

Cross-Legged, 2008

Audio/video running time: 1 minute loop

Audio/video extract: <https://vimeo.com/68951338>

Complete audio/video: <https://vimeo.com/68950942>

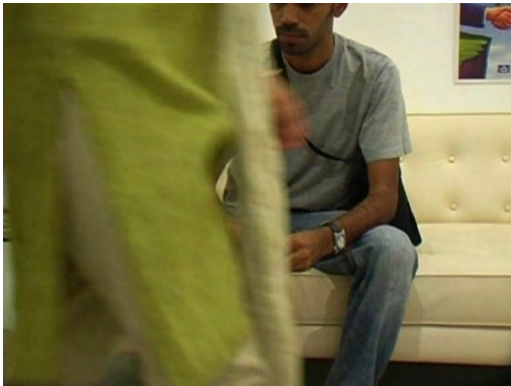
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The video, **Cross-Legged**, explores the differences and subtle nuances of body language within a culture. Coelho sets the stage in an office reception area, located in India.

A true story is re-enacted; where a young man experiences discrimination instigated by the the simple act of crossing his legs, which was viewed as submissive and feminine. Unconscious and spontaneous mannerisms often become imbued with social meaning where they are understood to be not of the norm and therefore unacceptable. While exploring societal disparities between the masculine and feminine, one is commonly confronted with deep-rooted stigmatization of sexuality.

- Davide Allison



DVD stills

Clang-Bang... Clang-Bang #2, 2007

Audio/video running time: 2 minutes 25 seconds loop

Audio/video extract: <https://vimeo.com/69083815>

Complete audio/video: <https://vimeo.com/69083140>

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Clang-Bang... Clang-Bang #2, continues to explore the impact of constant change within our urban environments. The video navigates through a maze of earthen pots; while the sound of a busy city is heard in the background. The video concludes as the pots reveal the lifeless form of dry concrete and the audio soundtrack transforms into a cacophony of construction sounds. Through this experience, the observer witnesses the affect of rapid and unplanned urbanization in an industrial world.

This video was realised during “Urban Changes”, a photography workshop conducted in 2007 by Andrea Kuenzig for Goethe-Institut in Mumbai.

- Davide Allison



DVD stills

CORPORAL DIS(CONNECT)

(Standard Mode & Intoxicated Mode #2), 2007

2 channel video running time: 1 minute loop

Video extract: <https://vimeo.com/68945975>

Complete Video: <https://vimeo.com/68938374>

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In the two-channel video, **CORPORAL DIS(CONNECT)**

(Standard Mode & Intoxicated Mode #2), Coelho performs two repetitive gestures in order to explore how the mind and body construct and interpret certain rhythmic patterns under different stimuli.

In Channel 1, fingers are seen interacting in a recurring pattern; where the movements appear synchronized. In contrast, Channel 2 shows the artist challenging the physicality and control of this action by becoming intoxicated. The pattern is disrupted as the external stimulus of alcohol becomes internalized and the mind struggles to decipher the movement; as well as re-establish it.

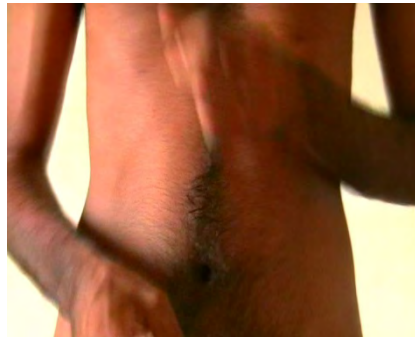
As a result, the rhythmic action becomes impeded and the artist struggles for a sense of normalcy. This personal exploration brings to light how we manipulate life through pattern and behaviour and how external stimulus can often affect our reactions; which we can not often oppress. These actions were performed at the navel area; the central part of our body, where we derive our core sense of identity and security.

CORPORAL DIS(CONNECT) (Standard Mode & Intoxicated Mode #2), is a personal investigation of behaviour involving the interactions between mind and body. The artist will continue to explore these relationships while developing future projects.

- Davide Allison



DVD stills Channel 1



DVD stills Channel 2

Limbo, 2006

Site-specific installation with video

2 channel video running time: 1 minute loop

Video extract: <https://vimeo.com/68998910>

Complete Video: <https://vimeo.com/68998475>

(Please request password)

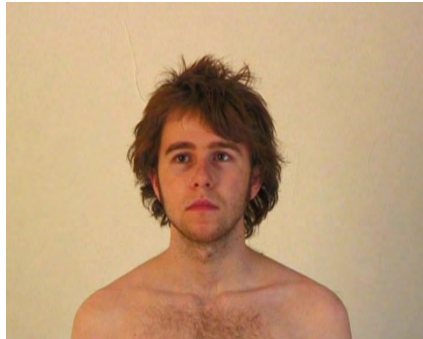
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The site-specific installation, **Limbo**, includes two channel videos; installed adjacent to each other and separated by a partition. The videos can be viewed simultaneously only when the viewer is standing aligned with the divider. Channel 01 shows an individual breathing under normal conditions; while in Channel 02 we observe a fish swimming in water. During the second half of Channel 01, the fish is seen out of the water struggling for survival; while simultaneously in Channel 02, we witness a person becoming breathless under water. These occurrences focus on the vulnerability of man and nature and their interdependence on fundamentally different elements in order to sustain life.

- *Davide Allison*



DVD stills Channel 1



DVD stills Channel 2

“Four attempts to understand static and dynamic air”, 2006

2 channel audio/video running time: 3 minutes loop each

Audio/video extract: <https://vimeo.com/69020640>

Complete audio/video: <https://vimeo.com/69018012>

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Static and dynamic properties facilitate our understanding, about the nature of air and our intrinsic relationship to it. Air, which can not actually be seen, is witnessed during the most transitory of experiences; like through the movement of human hair. This two-channel video, **“Four attempts to understand static and dynamic air”**, explores the basic principles of how air is observed and becomes noticeable upon a given place and time. Through the exploration of positive and negative space, the video documents how this interaction creates an atmosphere from where the qualities of air and hair are defined.

Coelho elaborates on this inter-relationship further by conceiving a metaphor for hair as a way to represent the feminine and its counterpart, air, to symbolize the masculine element. While observing the interactions of these two elements, it may appear that they are in opposition; but like the essential elements of Yin and Yang, they are both defined through each other. This interplay between the ebb and flow of these elements captures the existence of static and dynamic forces; which inevitably defines our existence.

- Davide Allison



DVD stills Channel 1



DVD stills Channel 2

Press

The Goan

Afrikadaa

The Himalayan

'Living Art' by Christine Machado, The Goan (India, 20 Sep 2015)

SUNDAY **FACES** **THE GOAN** 3
SEPTEMBER 20, 2015 thegoan.net



Living art

Goan origin artist Baptist Coelho has been making waves all over the country with his interesting art works. A video compilation of his works entitled 'under my skin...under your skin' was recently screened in Panaji

CHRISTINE MACHADO

One of the striking aspects of Baptist Coelho's works is that they seek to go beneath the surface of our seemingly simple day to day interactions and experiences with the world, and discover often overlooked and thought-provoking meaning in them. Be it exploring the social disparities that exist with regard to what is feminine or masculine, what is correct behaviour or the ruining of the environment, Coelho takes an unconventional route in looking deeper into these themes, and portrays his interpretations through different mediums like photography, performance, sound, installations, videos etc.

Indeed, his first forays with using these different media together to tell his stories began back in college in 2006 while he was pursuing his masters at the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, UK.

"I was working on air as a medium and found that I couldn't translate all the research material that I had into two dimensional art or graphic designing. So I began to look at other mediums like sculpture, performance and videos to express my work," says Coelho, adding, "Although I was aware of these mediums previously, using them all together was an exciting discovery for me and the universality was very encouraging."

Ever since then, this young Mumbai based artist has been making people pause and reflect on life's various intricacies with his various projects which have been exhibited all over India and abroad. Some of his solo exhibitions include Project 88, Mumbai India (2011), Pump House Gallery, London UK (2012), Grand Palais, Bern-Switzerland (2009) and BIAU, UK (2006). He was also awarded the 'Façade Video Award' (2011) by Art Today Association, 'Novelty-Bulgaria: Promising Artist Award' (2007) by Art India and India Habitat Centre, Delhi-India and 'Johnson Prize Fund' (2006) by BIAU, UK.

And Coelho truly takes being involved with his art to a new level, often assuming a performative role in them like in 'What have I done to you' in 2011 where dressed in the complete attire of a British soldier, he washed and wiped the feet of all the participants who entered the Pump House Gallery in Battersea Park, London in complete silence. In his other noted Siachen Glacier project 'Beneath it all...I am human' 2009, Coelho sought to highlight the tough bitter cold conditions in which these soldiers fight daily. "The Siachen project shows how the body acts when confronted with cold, something that I myself have a lot of problem adapting to, it also made me think about a lot of things like what it is to be brave? Do you need to be in the army to be brave? How much bravery is man enough?" reveals Coelho.

An assemblage of his works produced between 2006 and 2011 has now been put together in a video collection entitled 'under your skin...under my skin' and is curated by Goa based art historian Lina Vincent Sunish. "I have been working with Lina on many things and putting these works together has been something we have been thinking for a while now. Some of the videos in this collection are actually a part of more extensive installations and at first I wasn't very comfortable with stripping away from these. But what came together was very interesting and filled with intricate meaning," says Coelho. "The use of skin has been a major part of my work. Also just as the body has many layers of skin, there is a lot of layering that happens in these videos which are filled with a lot of inner meaning. So skin has been used both literally and metaphorically."

The video collection has already been screened in many places like Venice, South Africa, Oslo, etc and Coelho states that observing people's reactions to it has been very interesting. Presently the 2015-16 Leverhulme Artist-in-Residence at the Department of War Studies, King's College London, Coelho is also set to give a solo exhibition on Ladaakh at the Goethe-Zentrum in Hyderabad next month.

Apart from this, Coelho also hopes to return to his Goan roots someday. "My dad comes from the village of Mercos while my mum is from Chandor. However, I only visited Goa after I completed my studies and have still not had a chance to visit these two places. But I do want to come live in Goa sometime in the future and find out the origin behind my surname," he says, adding, "I think knowing the past is important as it plays an important role in forming the future."

PDF link: http://baptistcoelho.com/download_files/57_BCoelho_TheGoan_2015.pdf

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'Baptist Coelho, under my skin... under your skin' by Nosana Sondiyazi, Afrikadaa (Africa/France, Nov-Dec N°8, 2014)

EXHIBITION REVIEW

Baptist Coelho

under my skin... under your skin
a selection of video works 2006 – 2011
curated by Lina Vincent Sunish

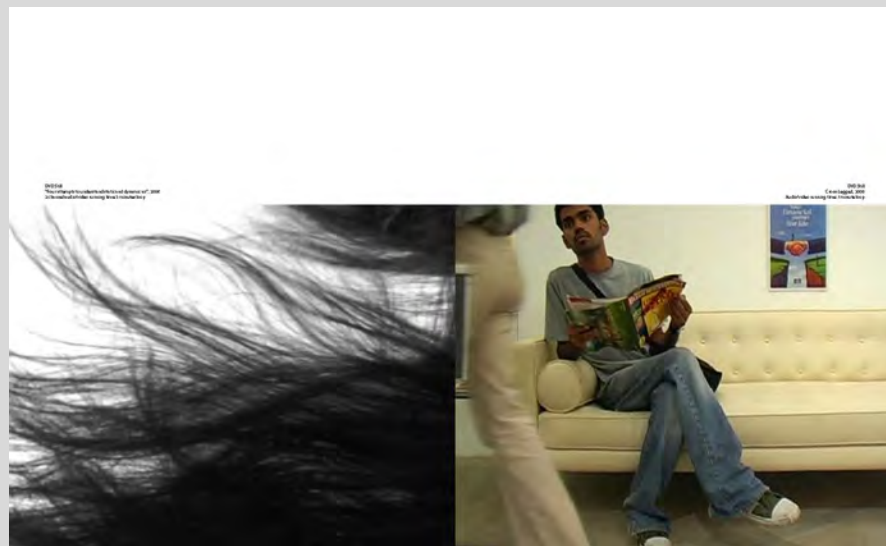
In March 20th, 2014, the screening of "under my skin... under your skin" took place at Greatmore Studios, in the heart of Woodstock, here in Cape Town. The screening was followed by a public discussion with the artist and moderated by Nosana Sondiyazi, a poet based in Cape Town. Greatmore Studios hosts an eclectic array of art & artists and was established in 1998 as a base for local and international arts practitioners from a broad range of cultural backgrounds. The studios have a long history of collaborative arts practices, social innovation and outreach projects. When visiting artists share their work, it's an opportunity for us to learn...often unexpected things about others & ourselves.

Baptist Coelho's work "under my skin... under your skin" was an occasion to show the unperceived. Using various video techniques to blur the most fluid & simple of movements as well as more staged scenarios, the audience was intimately placed in the artist's skin. Baptist looks different to person than on screen. I was often not sure if it was him or another actor, which was pleasantly bewildering to watch. I imagine that as the subject and the object in one's own video work it would be hard to not always appear as yourself. In conversation with Baptist after the screening I shared my own video knowledge, explaining how the sense that in video philosophy it is regarded that one's karma makes at one's best. So when Baptist explained how tied he was at the end of the feet washing recordings, it made sense to me because he had taken it carried so much karma from other people. As people, the best we can do in life is ourselves. So therefore our best covers many categories of our individuality. The way we often define ourselves is through our gender. The video clips of the crossing of the legs & trying on shoes were a direct engagement with the sense, the fluidness of our expectations

is only cared by the constant reminder of how not above we really are. Baptist Coelho confronts everyday situations in a non-threatening subtle way, using the familiar skin that we all bring to, on the shared surface of this planet. Curator Lina Vincent Sunish states that Coelho has an ability to focus on integral aspects of life that go unnoticed and opens them up for interpretation and questioning. The notion of 'skin' is used in both a literal and metaphorical sense, exploring parallel notions of identity and anonymity, congruency and incongruence: reality and pretence, as well as self and the other.

"under my skin... under your skin" has been shown at the following locations: Regal Bharat Library in Kathmandu, Nepal; LAARD - Lataji Arts and Media Organization in Lath, India; PIAK Bina in Trugem, Switzerland; Commune Image in Saint-Denis, France; S.A.I.E. Scuola in Venice, Italy; Geneva College in Zurich, Switzerland; CMR New Delhi, in Ahmedabad, India; Hyderabad Literary Festival in Hyderabad, India and Fongakawee in Ohio, New York.

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PDF link: http://baptistcoelho.com/download_files/51_BCoelho_Afrikadaa_2014.pdf

>> If the weblink does not open by clicking on it, then please copy and paste it into your browser

'Delving into life', The Himalayan (Nepal, 6 Apr 2013)

The Himalayan Times - Delving into life - Detail News : Nepal News Portal - Mozilla Firefox

www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Delving+into+life&NewsID=371878

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Delving into life

Baptist Coelho's videos explores diverse themes like social etiquette, lost soldiers, environment

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HIMALAYAN NEWS SERVICE

KATHMANDU: Under My Skin... Under Your Skin — a selection of video works by artist Baptist Coelho from 2006 to 2011 and curated by Lina Vincent Sunish, an art historian and curator based in Bengaluru — was projected at the Nepal Bharat Library on April 4.

Coelho is an artist living and working in India, who, has participated in various workshops, panel discussions and art talks in India.

Ten of his best videos were screened during the event which had issues of environment, soldiers, human behaviour and other things that concern the public.

The video screening was followed by a conversation between Coelho and Nepali artist Sujan Chitrakar. During the conversation Coelho said, "I like to work with things which have some historical background. Since 2006, I have been collecting random thoughts of people as each thought can be developed into an artwork."

In some of his videos, the artist is seen talking to families of lost soldiers. In another video, historical portrayal of women is brought to the forefront by showcasing the present day women reciting notions of correct behaviour. You can see them telling about the proper code of conduct which should be adhered to during social interactions. These notions of correct behaviour were influenced from books as per the artist who informed, "I modified phrases from the book and made the women say 'I do this', as they are doing those things in real life."

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Screening Venues

Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

& Coeverything, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Kon Len Khnhom, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

One Eleven Gallery, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Tentacles, Bangkok, Thailand

Asian Culture Station (ACS), Chiang Mai, Thailand

Ramanaidu Film School, Hyderabad, India

Sunaparanta, Goa, India

Videotage, Hong Kong

Independent Archive & Resource Centre, Singapore

Ace House, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Fotogalleriet, Oslo, Norway

Greatmore Studios, Cape Town, South Africa

Hyderabad Literary Festival, India

DWIH New Delhi, Ahmedabad, India

Corner College, Zurich, Switzerland

S.a.L.E. Docks, Venice, Italy

Palais Bleu, Trogen, Switzerland

Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation - LAMO, Leh, India

Nepal Bharat Library, Kathmandu, Nepal



Centre Pompidou

Paris, France

Moderator Catherine David

14.02.2018

<https://www.centrepompidou.fr/en>



Screening and discussion at Centre Pompidou, Paris-France. Moderator: Catherine David, 14.02.2018



& Coeverything

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Moderator Trà Nguyễn Bích

22.11.2017

<https://www.facebook.com/andcoeverything/>



Screening and discussion at & Coeverthing, Ho Chi Minh City-Vietnam. Moderator: Trà Nguyễn Bích, 22.11.2017



Kon Len Khnhom

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Moderator Lyno Vuth

17.11.2017

<https://konlenknhom.com>



Screening and discussion at Kon Len Khnhom, Phnom Penh-Cambodia. Moderator: Lyno Vuth, 17.11.2017



One Eleven Gallery

Siem Reap, Cambodia

Moderator Jessica Lim

15.11.2017

<https://www.oneelevengallery.com>



Screening and discussion at One Eleven Gallery, Siem Reap-Cambodia. Moderator: Jessica Lim, 15.11.2017



Tentacles

Bangkok, Thailand

Moderator Brian Curtin

09.11.2017

<http://www.tentaclesgallery.com>



Screening and discussion at Tentacles, Bangkok-Thailand. Moderator: Brian Curtin, 09.11.2017



Asian Culture Station (ACS)

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Moderator Sebastien Tayac

04.11.2017

<http://www.asianculturestation.cac-art.info>



Screening and discussion at Asian Culture Station (ACS), Chiang Mai-Thailand. Moderator: Sebastien Tayac, 04.11.2017



Ramanaidu Film School

Hyderabad, India

Moderator Prof. Rajkumar Roy

09.10.2015

<http://www.ramanaidufilmschool.net>



Screening and discussion at Ramanaidu Film School, Hyderabad-India. Moderator: Prof. Rajkumar Roy, 09.10.2015



Sunaparanta

Goa, India

Moderator Lina Vincent Sunish

19.09.2015

<http://www.sgcfa.org/>



Screening and discussion at Sunaparanta, Goa-India. Moderator: Lina Vincent Sunish, 19.09.2015



Videotage

Hong Kong

Introduction Hill Siu

12.06.2015

www.videotage.org.hk



Screening and discussion at Videotage, Hong Kong. Moderator: Hill siu, 12.06.2015



Independent Archive

Singapore

Moderator Dr. Nora A. Taylor

10.03.2015

<http://www.independentarchive.sg/>



Screening and discussion at Independent Archive & Resource Centre, Singapore. Moderator: Dr. Nora A. Taylor, 10.03.2015



Ace House

Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Moderator Gitani Swastika

27.02.2015

<https://www.facebook.com/acehousecollective?fref=ts>



Screening and discussion at Ace House, Yogyakarta-Indonesia. Moderator: Gitani Swastika, 27.02.2015



Fotogalleriet

Oslo, Norway

Moderator Stephanie von Spreter

13.05.2014

<http://fotogalleriet.no/>



Screening and discussion at Fotogalleriet, Oslo-Norway. Moderator: Stephanie von Spreter, 13.05.2014



Greatmore Studios

Cape Town, South Africa

Moderator Nosana Sondiyazi

20.03.2014

http://www.greatmoreart.org/greatmore_studio/Home.html



Screening and discussion at Greatmore Studios, Cape Town-South Africa. Moderator: Nosana Sondiyazi, 20.03.2014



Hyderabad Literary Festival

India

Moderator Koeli Mukherjee Ghosh

25.01.2014

<http://hydlitfest.org/>



Screening and discussion at Hyderabad Literary Festival, India. Moderator: Koeli Mukherjee Ghosh, 25.01.2014



DWIH New Delhi

Ahmedabad, India

Moderator Lina Vincent Sunish

16.11.2013

<http://www.dwih.in/>



Screening and discussion at DWIH New Delhi, Ahmedabad-India. Moderator: Lina Vincent Sunish, 16.11.2013



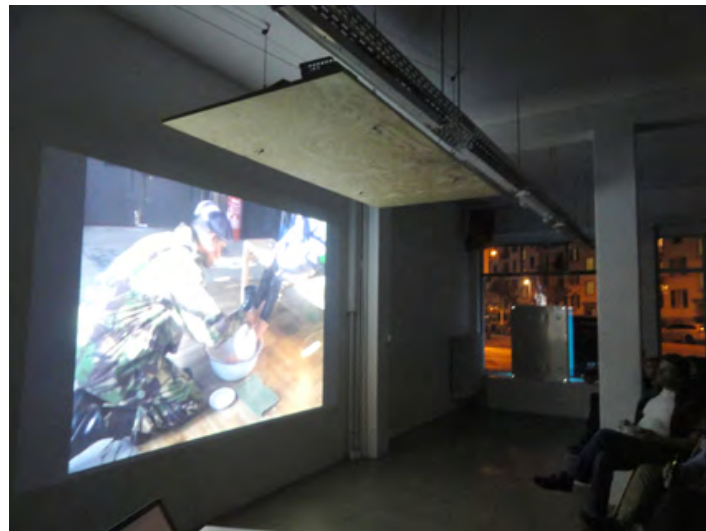
Corner College

Zurich, Switzerland

Moderator Stefan Wagner

06.11.2013

<http://www.corner-college.com/Veranstaltungen>



Screening and discussion at Corner College, Zurich-Switzerland. Moderator: Stefan Wagner, 06.11.2013



S.a.L.E. Docks

Venice, Italy

Moderator Daniele Capra

30.10.2013

<http://www.saledocks.org/>



Screening and discussion at S.a.L.E. Docks, Venice-Italy. Moderator: Daniele Capra, 30.10.2013



Palais Bleu

Trogen, Switzerland

Moderator Karin Bühler

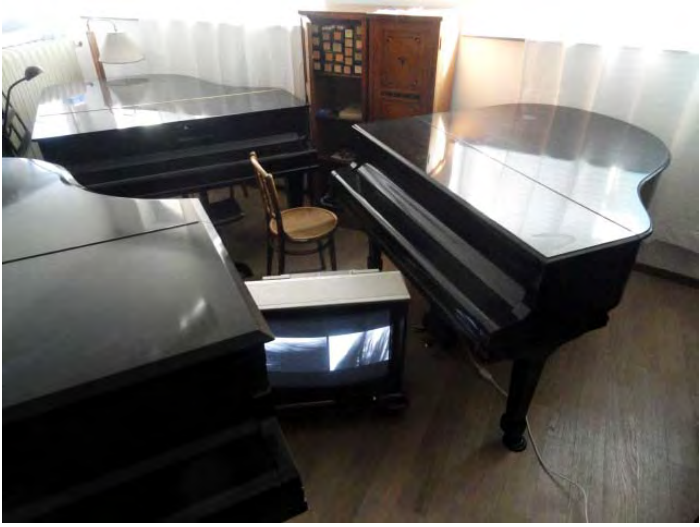
31.08.2013

**The ten videos were individually installed
throughout the premises of Palais Bleu.**

<http://www.palaisbleu.ch/>



“What have I done to you?”, exhibited in an Artist Studio



“Four attempts to understand static and dynamic air”, exhibited in the Music Room



“You, me and something else”, exhibited in a Dumbwaiter



Limbo, exhibited in the Washroom



“Something terrible has happened”, exhibited in the Garden Utility Area



CORPORAL DIS(CONNECT) (Standard Mode & Intoxicated Mode #2), exhibited in the Pantry



Cross-Legged, exhibited in the Bar Area



Clang-Bang... Clang-Bang #2, exhibited in the Supply Room



“Beneath it all... I am human...”, exhibited in the Cloakroom Area



Public discussion with the artist in the Dining Room



How to be Your Self (Chapter 01 - I Experience Real Life), exhibited in the Kitchen



Public discussion with the artist in the Dining Room



Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation - LAMO

Leh, India

Moderator Dr. Christopher Wright

03.05.2013

<http://lamo.org.in/>



Screening and discussion at Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation (LAMO), Leh-India. Moderator: Dr. Christopher Wright, 03.05.2013



Nepal Bharat Library

Kathmandu, Nepal

Moderator Sujan Chitrakar

04.04.2013

<https://www.indianembassy.org.np/index.php>



Screening and discussion at Nepal Bharat Library, Kathmandu-Nepal. Moderator: Sujan Chitrakar, 04.04.2013

About

Baptist Coelho received his Masters of Arts from Birmingham Institute of Art & Design - BIAD, UK (2006). He was awarded the 'Sovereign Asian Art Prize' (2016) by The Sovereign Art Foundation, Hong Kong; 'Façade Video Award' (2011) by Art Today Association, Plovdiv-Bulgaria; 'Promising Artist Award' (2007) by Art India & India Habitat Centre, Delhi-India and 'Johnson Prize Fund' (2006) by BIAD, UK. Solo Exhibitions include, Somerset House, London-UK (2016); Goethe-Zentrum, Hyderabad-India (2015); Project 88, Mumbai-India (2015); Ladakh Arts and Media Organization in Leh-India (2015); Pump House Gallery, London-UK (2012); Grand Palais, Bern-Switzerland (2009); Project 88, Mumbai-India (2009); Visual Arts Gallery, Delhi-India (2009) and BIAD, UK (2006). He has exhibited internationally in museums, galleries and film screenings. Coelho has participated in various artist residencies; as well as conducted workshops, artist talks and panel discussions in Asia, UAE, South Africa, UK and Europe. The artist lives and works in Mumbai, India. www.baptistcoelho.com

Lina Vincent is an art historian and curator with over 15 years experience in research, design, curation and public art programming. She is committed to socially engaged arts practice that reflects in multidisciplinary projects she has developed and participated in. Her recent curatorial consultancies include 'Heads and bodies, icons and idols', exhibition by Ravinder Reddy at RMZ Ecoworld, Bangalore (July - Sept '17); 'Tabiyat: Medicine and Healing in India' (Jan-Mar '16, CSMVS Mumbai); & 'Morphology of Archive: Connected Histories of Goa', (MOG, Goa Feb – May '16). Selected independent projects include MEMORABILIA, Gallery Sumukha Bangalore (2014); 'under my skin...under your skin' Baptist Coelho (2013); 'Between the Lines: Identity, Place and Power - Selections from the Waswo X Waswo Collection of Indian Printmaking' NGMA Bangalore + Mumbai (2012-13). Lina is Associate Curator with ARTPORT_making waves and Chief Program Designer, Visual Art & Design for TFAI (Teaching for Artistic Innovation) Bangalore. Lina has a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Bangalore University and a PG Degree in Art History from the same institution (2001).