

Art Kino presents

FRICTIVE FAMILIARITIES

A screening event with works originating from South Asia and its diaspora, gathered around notions of heritage and hybridisation

Curated by Diana Kaur in collaboration with Farah Siddiqui

Thursday 11 November 2010

8 pm — 11 pm

Artist talk and bar

Biografteatern Rio
Hornstulls Strand 3
Stockholm

"Many of us live out our defining stories without being able to express them. As a visual artist, it has been a driving force in my practice to provide an articulate voice to these unspoken stories and to be able to permeate them with intellectual thought and conscience. My projects frequently merge personal research with collaboration from people of various cultures, geographies and histories. This interaction begins the process of investigation, questioning and interpretation, which often creates new ideas and outcomes. As I begin the research of conjuring meaning out of raw experiences, I am able to describe social and personal contexts, which often inspire inquiry and become the foundation for long-term projects. These collaborations begin to take on the form of human-shaped media-landscapes and often contend with conflict, emotions, environment, history, culture and gender. I incorporate various media into my practice such as: installation, video, sound, photography, performance and found objects, which may develop into site-specific work or public-art projects. While exploring these stories and ideas from various geographical backgrounds, I have discovered that the values expressed can often describe a much larger, global, perspective. I live and work in Mumbai, India".

"Beneath it all... I am human..."

(2009) 11:05 min, colour, sound

Since April 13, 1984, the endless conflict between India and Pakistan over the ownership of the Siachen Glacier has been fought at an altitude of around 18,000 feet, which is the highest battlefield on earth. Temperatures reaching to -60° Celsius make living conditions unbearable for the soldiers. "Beneath it all... I am human..." shows a Siachen soldier's clothing being systematically and mysteriously removed to reveal his bare body. The act reminds us that beneath the layers of protective gear there exists the human form, an inner layer that is vulnerable. The meticulous unzipping and unbuttoning is reminiscent of the laborious task that each soldier endures daily; in a climate where the brutal weather conditions are life-threatening. During the process of undressing, details of the soldier's body are

exposed and this simple act expresses a sense of liberation 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. "Beneath it all... I am human..." is part of the multi-disciplinary project entitled "You can't afford to have emotions out there...". The project focuses on the life of the soldier; not as a machine of war but as a man coping with the day-to-day complexities of conflict; a soldier with emotions and vulnerabilities like any other human being.

"CROSS-LEGGED"

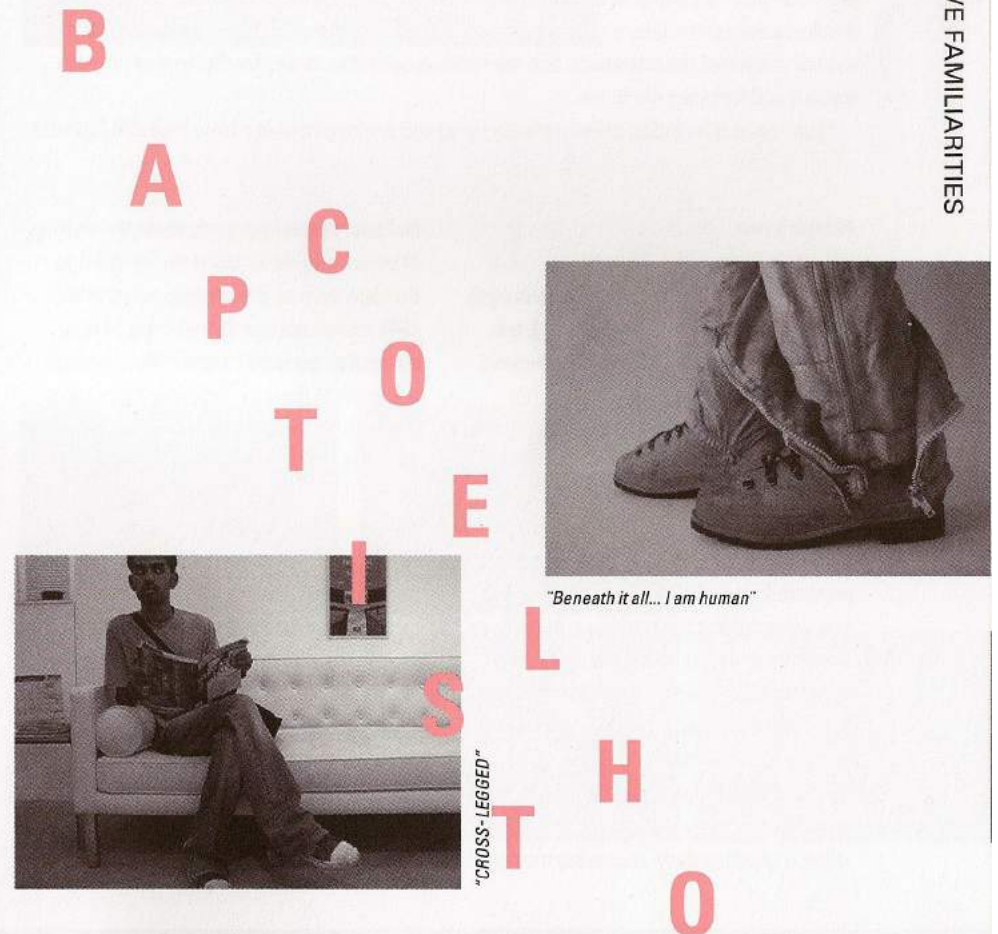
(2008) 1 min, colour, sound

"CROSS-LEGGED" explores the cultural differences and subtle nuances of body language within Indian culture. Coelho sets the stage in an office reception area and re-enacts a true story; where a young man

experiences discrimination based on the simple act of crossing his legs, which may be viewed as submissive and feminine. Unconscious and spontaneous mannerisms often become imbued with social meaning and prejudice of the understated can be read as the other. While exploring societal disparities between the masculine and feminine, one is commonly confronted with the deep-rooted stigmatization of sexuality.



"Beneath it all... I am human"



"Beneath it all... I am human"

"CROSS-LEGGED"