



I AM HERE

Baptist Coelho

'CORPORAL DIS(CONNECT)
(Standard Mode & Intoxicated Mode #1)
2 channel video running time: 1.00 min loop each.
2007



STATEMENT

In the two-channel video, CORPORAL DIS(CONNECT) (Standard Mode & Intoxicated Mode #1), 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 behavior and how external stimulus can often affect our reactions; which we cannot 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. The work is a personal investigation of behavior involving the interactions between mind and body.

In 2006, Baptist received his Masters of Arts from the Birmingham Institute of Art & Design (BIAD), UK. Solo Exhibitions have included BIAD, Birmingham (2006); Grand Palais, Bern (2009); Visual Arts Gallery, Delhi (2009) and Project 88, Mumbai (2009). His work has been exhibited at galleries and institutions, including Zacheta National Art Gallery, Poland (2011); Essl Museum, Austria (2010); Gwangju Museum of Art, South Korea (2010) and Devi Art Foundation, India (2008). Baptist Coelho frequently merges personal research with collaborations from various cultures, geographies and histories. His work begins to take the form of human-shaped media-landscapes which often contend with history, the environment, conflict, emotion and randomness. As part of his practice, Coelho incorporates installation, video, sound, photography, found objects, site-specific works and public-art projects. Coelho's videos have been screened at institutions, including Swiss Architecture Museum, Basel (2011) MAC, Lyon (2011); Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland (2010); HEART - Herning Museum of Contemporary Art, Denmark (2010) among others. He has also participated in artist-in-residence programs, workshops, panel discussions and artist talks in India, South Korea, Switzerland and UK. The artist lives and works in Mumbai, India.

'CORPORAL DIS(CONNECT) (Standard Mode & Intoxicated Mode #1)' has been shown in – 'Transformations' (Part of Indian Highway III, IV & V) - MAC, Lyon (2011); MAXXI, Rome (2011); HEART - Herning Museum of Contemporary Art, Denmark (2010); 'Indian Highway' - Contemporary Indian Video, Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland, Curator: Hafthor Yngvason (2010); Fixed Frame Film Festival, 'KwaSuka Theatre', Durban. Juried Selection (2008)

Lina Vincent Sunish is an art historian and curator based in Bangalore, India. Her experience in the last ten years has been in research, writing, design and arts management. She is also a printmaker, and is currently pursuing a study on printmaking history in India.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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JAAGA, based in Bangalore, India, seeks to nurture innovative endeavors by providing space, core infrastructure, and a diverse social environment. They explore new ways of using pallet rack shelving to create a social and collaborative place for a wide range of forward thinking people. Founded by Freeman Murray and Archana Prasad in Bangalore, India in August 2009, the project looks at developing an environment that connects people to their habitat organically and dynamically. It constantly looks for ways to engage and exist without weighing heavily on the earth's limited natural resources.



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I am here in body, in the flesh;
I am here in spirit, in consciousness;
I am here in sensation - in pain, pleasure, wonder, anger;
I am here in this voice, in this expression;
I am here in this fantasy; I am here; I am.