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Cityspace

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CLANG-BANG CLANG-BANG



Construction MP3, 3:59 min.

NEIGHBOUR



VIEW



Santa Cruz West MP3, 2:00 min.

© Baptist Coelho

CITYSPACE by Baptist Coelho

"Mumbai (Bombay) is the most densely populated city in India, with over eighteen million people living and working within a small stretch of land. This growing metropolis has witnessed many urban changes which have physically transformed this overgrown island. As a "Mumbaite", the perception of "CITYSPACE" and it's affect on people are important issues to explore. We are all connected to each other and as Mumbai continues to develop, our very nature of how we coexist is challenged. While reflecting on "CITYSPACE", the following works: VIEW (2007), NEIGHBOUR (2007) and CLANG-BANG CLANG-BANG (2007) were created to explore how we respond to and define ourselves through public and private space."

VIEW, 2007 represents a continuing series of work which explores the space around the Western Rail Line, (Mumbai's life-line). Here, commuters along with various modes of transportation fight for coexistence. Chaos results and the pavement becomes a confused roadway of people and machines. On closer inspection of these traffic jams, one can notice evidence of 'Urban Change' and witness what rapid, poorly planned, urbanization can create. The six images, created as a series, represent 'The Six Degrees of Separation' and the connection that may be possible in this over-populated city of Mumbai. The cacophony of sound has been recorded in conjunction with the photographs in order that we may identify with all of our senses during the experience.

VIEW, 2007 is an ongoing series of images photographed in various cities around the world. The continuity of having six images photographed from a specific height, including ambient sound, will be consistent throughout the body of this series.

The fine line between public and private within the "CITYSPACE" is brought into focus by the series NEIGHBOUR, 2007. The viewer looks out onto the ever-changing city from his own private space and is invited to explore further by manipulating the shutters. As the louvers open, this private space turns into an uncomfortable public one. In Mumbai, this experience becomes common; where the lack of space and unplanned construction forces us to live closer together. Our window view often converts into our neighbour's living, private space; where public and private becomes undefined. In this large urban city, the view of open space, where personal space is still private, becomes a precious commodity for the privileged few.

This work in progress will be photographed in various neighbourhoods around the world. Through juxtaposing these images, Coelho reflects on this growing concern of public and private space within our developing urbanized spaces.

Coelho continues his exploration of how we are impacted by the constant change of our physical, urban space. In CLANG-BANG...CLANG-BANG, 2007 the observer becomes the conscious participant as he is guided on a journey through what rapid, unplanned, urbanization can create. Contrasts of texture, shape and colour dominate as we observe how the natural elements are replaced by the utility of modern-day, artificial, lifeless forms. The coexistence of these forms becomes a disturbance to our very being. The experience creates a metaphor for the way our developing city is transforming us.



Baptist Coelho

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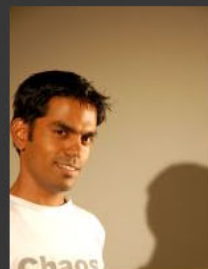
Excerpt from the Artist's Story

Mumbai (Bombay) is the most densely populated city in India with over eighteen million people live and work within this small stretch of land. This growing metropolis has witnessed many urban changes which have taken on various physical forms. As a "Mumbaite" myself, space is an important issue to explore. Mumbai continues to develop in doing so will challenge the very nature of how humans coexist. The distinction between public and private spaces will be a very thin line.

'VIEW' represents a continuing series of work which explores the spaces around the Western Rail Line (Mumbai's life-line). Here, commuters along with various modes of transportation fight for their own existence. Chaos results and the pavement becomes a confused roadway of people and machines. On closer inspection of these bottle necks, one can notice traces of 'Urban Change' and can understand the irony of what rapid, unplanned, urbanization can create. The six images per setting, created, represent 'The Six Degrees of Separation' and the connection that may be possible in this over-populated city of Mumbai. The cacophony of sound has been recorded in conjunction with the photographs in order to give a complete sensory identity.

'VIEW' is an ongoing series of images photographed in various cities around the world. The continuity of having six images photographed from a particular height, including ambient sound, will be consistent for each series.

About Baptist Coelho



Coelho graduated in Graphic Design in 1997 at the L. S. Raheja School of Art in Mumbai, and began his career working in Advertising. He completed his Master of Arts Degree in Visual Communication at the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (BIAD) in the United Kingdom, in 2006.

In 2006 Coelho created his first Solo Exhibition in England entitled "air(edge) air" which was well received by the art community. In 2007 he continued his exploration with a sculpture entitled

"SIACHEN GLACIER - Satellite View". This exhibition was curated by Judy Hussie-Taylor and was part of the "Peace Project" at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver, Colorado. In that year, Coelho also exhibited at the "Auto-portraits - Queering The Lens" show at The Attic, in Delhi. This exhibition was curated by Sunil Gupta.

Coelho will be participating in up-coming exhibitions at the Vadehra Art Gallery, in Delhi, called "Click! Contemporary Photography in India"; curated by Sunil Gupta & Radhika Singh. He will also be exhibiting at the Cymroza Art Gallery, in Mumbai, called "Urban Changes"; curated by Andrea Kuenzig.

His is working on a Public Art project entitled "Mumbai-Berlin, Resources of Public Space" which will focus on the artistic intervention of public spaces in Mumbai and Berlin. This collaborative project is organised by Open Circle, Mumbai and the Skulpturenpark Berlin-Zentrum, Berlin.

Coelho has been the recipient of the Johnson Fund Prize for outstanding work at BIAD and has recently been short-listed for the Emerging Artist Award 2007, at the Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art (FICA).

His photography has been featured in the Times Journal of Photography and has been considered to be among the "Best Photos of 2001". Coelho has also attended "URBAN CHANGES" & "VIDEO-ART EDITING" workshops, conducted by the Goethe-Institute and the Open Circle, in Mumbai respectively. He has also lectured about his work at the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, in the UK and at the cole Mondiale World School, Mumbai.

Coelho works and lives in Mumbai. He continues to explore and express through many diverse mediums including Video, Sound and Architectural Installations, Public-Art, Objects, Performance, Photography, Sculpture Wall Drawings, Collage and Site-Specific works.

Exhibition on the Tropics



For more than 100 years the tropics have been a source of inspiration to modern artists and a motivation to new artistic approaches to this myth.

Imagine Tropics



Photographic workshop and exhibition