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Delving into life

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

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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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