

Baptist Coelho

under my skin... under your skin

a selection of video works 2006 – 2011

curated by Lina Vincent Sunish

By Nosana Sondiyazi



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.

Public discussion with the artist
and moderated by Nosana Sondiyazi
Greatmore Studios
Cape Town



DVD Still
“Beneath it all... I am human...”, 2009
Audio/video running time: 11 minutes 5 seconds loop



Baptist Coelho’s work [“under my skin... under your skin”](#) was an occasion to view the unexpected. Using various video techniques to illustrate 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 in 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 ideal to not always appear as yourself. In conversation with Baptist after the screening I shared my own Vedic knowledge, explaining how I’m aware that in Vedic philosophy it is regarded that one’s karma resides at one’s feet. So when Baptist explained how tired he was at the end of the feet washing recordings, it made sense to me because he had taken & carried so much karma from other people.

As people, the best we can be 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 sexes, the loneliness of our separateness

is only Cured by the constant reminder of how not alone we really are.

Baptist Coelho confronts everyday situations in a non-threatening subtle way; using the familiar skin that we are all living in, 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; corporeality and impermanence; reality and pretense; as well as self and the other.

[“under my skin... under your skin”](#) has been shown at the following locations: Nepal Bharat Library in Kathmandu, Nepal; LAMO - Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation in Leh, India; Palais Bleu in Trogen, Switzerland; Commune Image in Saint-Ouen, France; S.a.L.E. Docks in Venice, Italy; Corner College in Zurich, Switzerland; DWIH New Delhi, in Ahmedabad, India; Hyderabad Literary Festival in Hyderabad, India and Fotogalleriet in Oslo, Norway.

DVD Still
"Four attempts to understand static and dynamic air", 2006
2 channel audio/video running time: 3 minutes loop



DVD Still
Cross-Legged, 2008
Audio/video running time: 1 minute loop

