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Artist in Residence, Baptist Coelho, wins Sovereign Asian Art Prize

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Posted on 13/06/2016



The Department of War Studies is pleased to announce that Baptist Coelho, the Leverhulme Artist in Residence has won the the 12th annual Sovereign Asian Art Prize for this artwork, *Attempts to contain*, 2015. The award is Asia's longest established prize in the arts given by the [Sovereign Art Foundation](#), Hong Kong. Baptist Coelho was in in Hong Kong to receive a trophy and a cash prize. [More details here](#)

Attempts to contain, consists of 8 photographs that explore how the body responds to the physical

and psychological need to protect itself by forming a mesh of interlocking body parts. The work takes inspiration from Baptist's on-going research about the Siachen Glacier, a conflict zone between Indian and Pakistan since 1984.

Baptist Coelho says, "The award comes at a very poignant stage of my art practise and I am very grateful to the Sovereign Art Foundation for their support and to all who have been part of my journey. It was a pleasure to be part of the competition and to be a finalist amongst a group of such diverse and talented artists."

Curator, Cécile Bourne-Farrell commented, "This prize is a fantastic gift for Baptist Coelho to dedicate himself deeper into his research and artistic practices in a turning point of his career."

Baptist Coelho's contribution to the Department of War Studies will provide an aesthetic perspective on the intersection of everyday life with war, culminating in an exhibition entitled, *Traces of War*. Working with Professor Vivienne Jabri and Curator Cécile Bourne-Farrell, Baptist Coelho's work will make an invaluable contribution to the exploration and conceptualisation of the intersection of the everyday and the routine with the time of war, how the material, discursive, and psychological dimensions of one temporality come to permeate and affect the other.

The exhibition, running from 26th October to he 18th December in the Inigo Rooms, Somerset House East Wing, brings together three outstanding and internationally renowned artists, [Jananne Al-Ani](#), [Baptist Coelho](#) and [Shaun Gladwell](#).

The Department of War Studies is home to a newly established hub that provides a focal point for work exploring the relationship between the arts and conflict, including visual arts, dance, music, theatre and film. The hub aims to bring artists and scholars together to share their work and ideas fostering a space for creative collaboration, opening new dialogues and engaging new audiences. Find out more about the [Arts & Conflict events](#).

Photo credit: Sovereign Art Foundation, Hong Kong