

The art of dissonance

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A still from one of Nezaket's ongoing projects

Curated by Jesal Thacker and Isin Onol, Dissonance intersects the philosophies of four artists

Performance artist Nezaket Ekici's works oscillate from topics of politics to social norms, from physical endurances to sentiments that move oneself from depth. Perhaps one of her best remembered performances is but all that glitters not gold – one where she sits inside a gilded cage and tries to find the right key from the bunch of keys that are hanging outside the cage.

Widely acclaimed as cogent performance artist, Nezaket has studied the subject from Academy of Fine arts in Braunschweig with the popular and scholarly Dr. Marina Abramovic. Despite increasingly eroded, cultural boundaries and different gestures and action, she justifies that the simplest of her performances are read with novel perspectives and evoke altogether new reactions.

This is Nezaket's first visit to India. "You know in Europe, we have pillows made of feathers, and that has a lot to do with my performance; but it is only after coming here that I realised that you guys sleep on pillows made of cotton. So many might not get the reference, but I'm sure they'll bring their own interpretation.

Her *Screaming Feathers* was originally produced in 2006 as a response to the human's handling of their coexistence with the species birds, which has been a significant topic since the infectious diseases such as SARS, the bird flu created enormous fear in Western societies. Alongside *Nezaket*, works of three other artists' work is exhibited at *Dissonance*. Berlin-based Pinar Yoldas' sculptural installations from her series, *Designer Babies* focus on pre-implantation genetic diagnosis techniques and questions the limits of the human beings' will to alter the human biology as well as the world around them. Vienna-based Nita Tandon's performance video of *Fingerprint Erased*, plays with the dichotomies between three and two dimensionality: visibility and invisibility, analogue and digital image and leaving-erasing traces.

Mumbai-based Prajakta Palav Aher's exhibits her community-based work *Mala*, consisting of a video and an installation, that are created as a result of a long-term project. In the process of creating the work, the artist collects waste plastic from the streets of Mumbai. "The installation is about the wonderful experiences that I had with strangers, who came in and helped me making these malas," says the artist.

The eclectic works of art which together forms *Dissonance: Transgressed Boundaries Between Desire and Fear*, have been curated by Isin Onol and Jesal Thacker. "Each of the artists' work is much different but when seen through a prism, they all reflect the contemporary society and has a universality to it," says Isin.

Dissonance is on till February 27, 11 am to 8 pm

At Percept Art Gallery, P2, Raghuvanshi Mills, Lower Parel