

Onlookers

Ashutosh Bhardwaj



The Guild
Art Gallery

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Onlookers presents artworks which explore the relationship between mass media and the organization of collective thought.

The artist implies that while our experience of the world is virtually amplified with an overflow of information through various forms of media, our perceptions are mediated by the way in which the information is represented.

Since the process of communication invariably involves a selective framing of experience, all representations perpetuate their own versions of reality. Further generalizations lead to the creation of stereotypes and clichés. Assuming that reality itself is a faceted and shifting trope, the birth of stereotypes and clichés may reduce its experience into monolithic truisms. However, clichés reveal how a general view or consensus is reached.

The artist engages with the cliché as a means of comprehending the organization of collective thought. The title 'Onlookers' attempts to ponder the passivity that is associated with subject-hood, to address the self as a discerning subject.

Within this context, the work titled Cannibals is a subversive representation of the subject-object relationship. A sculptural self-portrait of the artist in various stances as a subject is placed inside the T.V. frame. Through a simple inversion, the subject now becomes the object, thereby making the work introspective. The arrangement of the elements is set up as a silent tableau staging a mock yet ominous picture of the plight of the subject.

Fear Me (Not) attempts a playful imaging and conception of fictitious idols. Large-sized ricket balls sculpted and cast out of fiberglass have been anthropomorphized. By dressing these balls with various other objects and images the semblance of a head is created. These are balanced on tall pedestals made to look like donation boxes. Each of these 'idols' appears to be representative of a social convention or stereotyping. The work attempts a sardonic comment on the creation of clichés.

Text by Puja Vaish



Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Cannibals, fiberglass, acrylic sheets, archival print, gravel on tar sheets, aluminum composite mirrors, etc., 39.5" x 50.5" x 17", 2011 - 2012



Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Cannibals, fiberglass, acrylic sheet, archival print, deco color, aluminum composite mirror, gravel on tar sheets, cloth, curtain, plastic mat, etc., 49" x 75.5" x 26", 2011 - 2012



Ashutosh Bhardwaj, *Cannibals*, fiberglass, acrylic sheets, archival print, curtain, aluminum composite mirrors, etc., 39"x 51"x 17", 2011 -2012



Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Cannibals, fiberglass, acrylic sheets, deco colour, woolen cap, tooth brush, aluminum composite mirror, 39"x 50.5"x 16.5" approx, 2011 - 2012



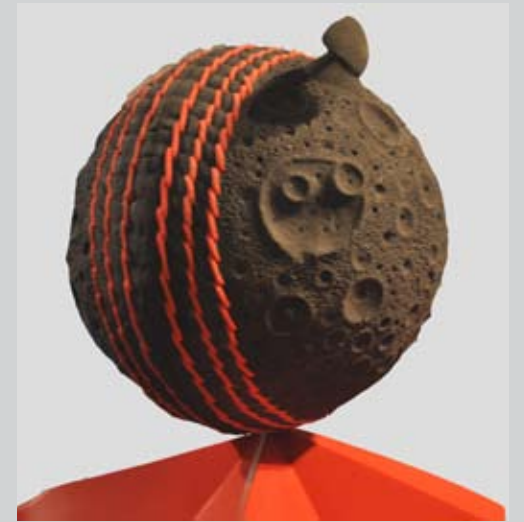
Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Fear Me (Not), fiberglass, archival print, iron rods, ropes, synthetic fur, duco color, wooden chappals, undergarments, gravel on tar sheets, etc., 71" x 24" x 28", 2011 - 2012



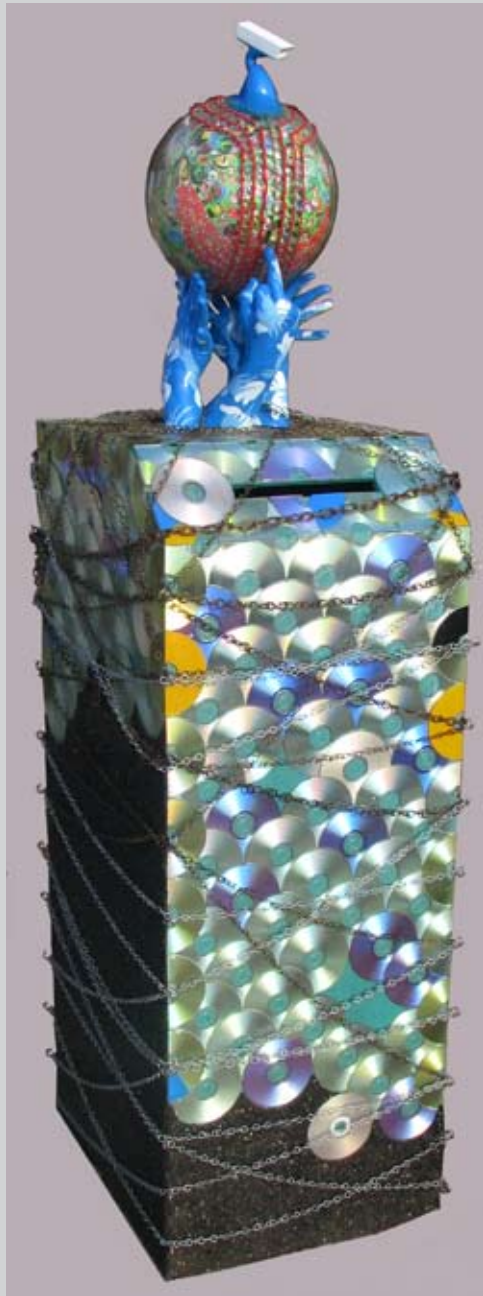
Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Fear Me (Not), transparent resin, fiberglass, archival prints, wool, acrylic, deco & enamel color, thread, gravel on tar sheets etc., 68"x 32"x 24" approx., 2011 - 2012



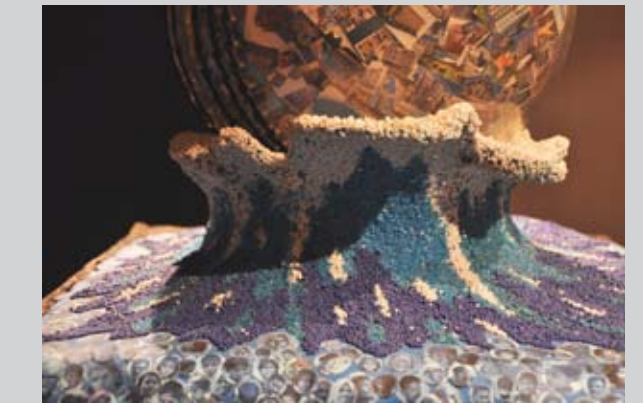
Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Fear Me (Not)
transparent resin, fiberglass, archival print, synthetic fur,
threads, gravel on tar sheets etc., 68.5" x 19" x 20.5", 2011 - 2012



Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Fear Me (Not),
fiberglass, archival print, carborundum, cloth,
threads, book, t-shirts, etc., 65" x 25" x 23", 2011 - 2012



Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Fear Me (Not), transparent resin, fiberglass, archival print, CD/DVDs, iron chains, deco color, threads, cloth, gravel on tar sheets, etc., 74.5"x 21"x 24", 2011 - 2012



Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Fear Me (Not), transparent resin, archival print, deco colour beads, threads, plastic bags, acrylic sheets, gravel on tar sheets, etc., 67.5"x 22.5"x 22.5" approx., 2011 - 2012



Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Fear Me (Not), transparent resin, fiberglass, archival print, enamel colour, deco color, chemically preserved rice and worms, cloth, gravel on tar sheets, threads, clay, etc., 73"x 19"x 22", 2011 - 2012



ASHUTOSH BHARDWAJ

Born 1981

EDUCATION

- 2004 Master of Fine Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
- 2002 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Onlookers, The Guild.
- 2008 Sleep Walker, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2004 Picasso and Pollock, Installation at Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Excrescence curated by Maya Kovskaya, The Guild, Mumbai.
- 2011 Roots In The Air, Branches Below : Modern And Contemporary Art from India, curated by Kristen Evangelista, San Jose Museum Of Art, California, USA.
- 2011 Art for Concern, Concern India Foundation Art Auction, Taj, Mumbai
- 2011 Divine Stroke. Sarjan Art Gallery, Baroda
- 2011 Fly Vadodara Fly, ABS Gallery, Baroda.
- 2010 Art 2 Aid, Samsara Art and Trident, Mumbai



- 2010 Alternate to Another, The Guild Art Gallery, New York
- 2010 Art Celebrates 2010: Sports and the City, an Exhibition of Indian Contemporary Art by Rupika Chawla
- 2010 Alternate to Another, The Guild, New York
- 2010 Irreverent Gene, Crimson- The Art Resource, Bangalore
- 2009 Vicissitudes of the Constructed Image', Tangerine Art Space, Bangalore
- 2009 A New Vanguard: Trends in Contemporary Indian Art, Saffronart, New York; The Guild, New York
- 2009 Multitudes, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, Bangalore in collaboration with Zen Studio Gallery and Artflute.com; Durbar Hall, Kochi
- 2009 1x1 India, The Loft, Mumbai
- 2009 Perceptions, Sun Art Gallery, Baroda
- 2008 Interlude-Venice/Kassel, The Guild, Mumbai
- 2008 Annanya, organized by BCAH, New Delhi
- 2008 Through a Glass, Darkly: Reflections On The Self Portrait, The Guild, Mumbai
- 2008 Obscure Objects of Desire, Gallery OED, Kochi
- 2008 Representations-3, Triva Contemporary, Trivandurum
- 2007 Meandering Membranes, presented by Empire Art & The Shrine Gallery, New Delhi at The Taj Bengal, Kolkata
- 2007 New Voices, The Guild Art Inc, New York
- 2007 Asian Young Artist in Heyri, Paju City, South Korea
- 2007 Beyond Credos – Painting In Baroda Today, Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata
- 2007 The Chronicles of The Unspoken, Matters of Art, New Delhi
- 2007 After Images, Faculty Of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Baroda.
- 2006 New Voices, The Guild Art Inc, New York
- 2006 Con-Figure, Hues Art Gallery, Chennai
- 2006 Pachmarhi Show, ABS Lanxess Art Gallery, Baroda.
- 2005 Threshold And Distances, The Guild, Mumbai, Baroda
- 2005 In-Cinque, Palette Art Gallery, New Delhi

2004 Matrix - We Love America, America loves Us, Installation on Open Studio Day at KHOJ, New Delhi

2004 13 Artists Show, Sarjan Art Gallery, Baroda

2004 Ravindra Bhavan, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi

PARTICIPATIONS

2011 Roots in the Air, Branches Below: Modern & Contemporary Art from India, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose

2010 Art Celebrates 2010: Sports and the City, represented by Gallery Alternatives at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi to coincide with the hosting of the Commonwealth Games

2009 CIGE 2009, China presented by The Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai

2008 MiArt 2008, Fiera Milano International Spa, Milan represented by The Guild, Mumbai

2006 Hybrid Trends, India Festival at Seoul Art Center, South Korea

HONOURS AND AWARDS

2009 Artist Residency at The Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai

2005 Junior Research Fellowship, India

2004 Nasreen Mohammedi Award, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

2004 Peer 04, Residency at Khoj, New Delhi

2003-05 National Scholarship, India

2003-04 2002-03, 2001-02, 2000-01, 1999-2000, 1998-99 Merit Scholarship, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

2000-01 Ila Desai Scholarship, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

The Guild

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