



## Variable Operatives

Baiju Parthan | Prayas Abhinav

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## Baiju Parthan

Vector

“Vector posits virtual reality as the escalation of the real, augmented and exponentially raised to the nth power, as the antinomic twin gradually and stealthily devouring its sibling.

Reality essentially is an epiphenomenon by virtue of it being an interpretation of sensory data filtered through cultural and gender bias, and virtual reality emerges as effervescence, an adjunct that is briskly modifying the



Monument, 3D rendering and photography on archival lenticular print media, 45” x 135” (triptych), 2011



ELEVENTH HOUR CHORUS- 2, photography & 3d rendering, 3d lenticular print , 45” x 135” (triptych), 2010

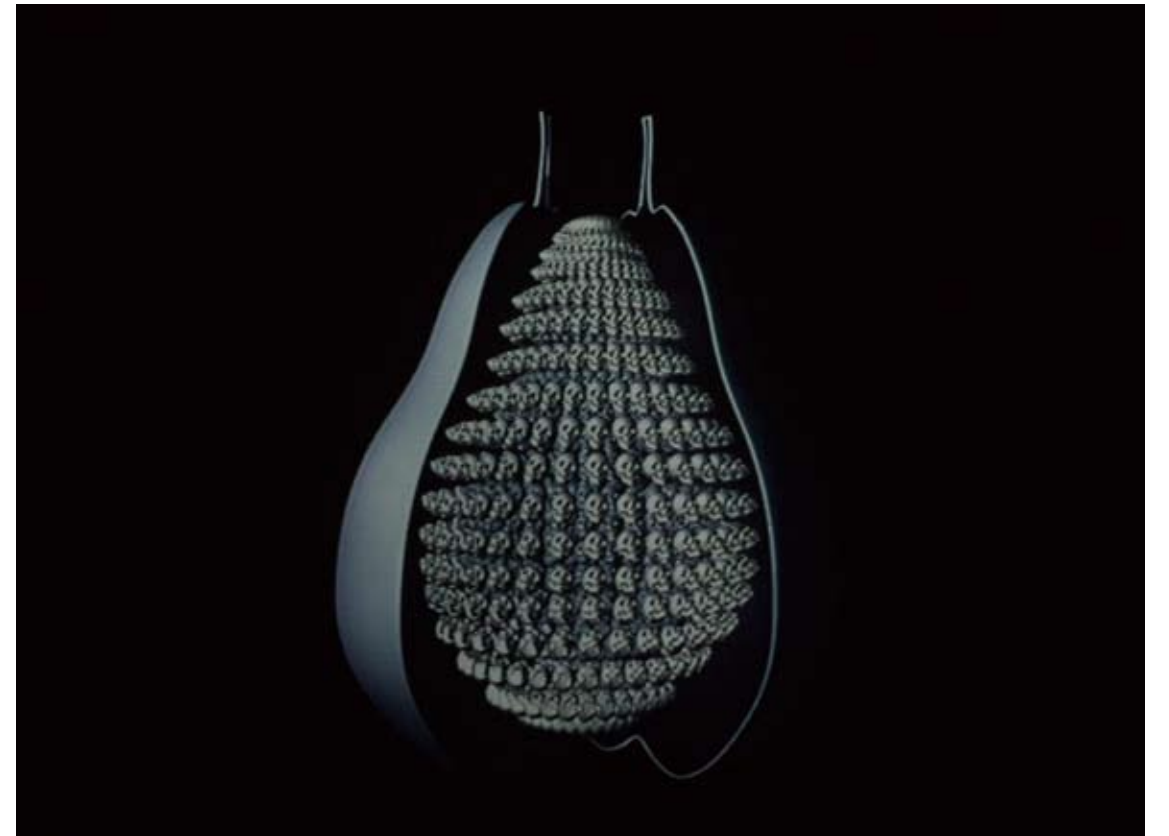
texture of reality.

As French theorist Paul Virilio points out “The invention of the ship is also the invention of the shipwreck.”

The art works in this show are located at the interstice of the objective real and the ethereal virtual. These are collision points aimed at presenting the erosion of implicit ‘faith in perception’ that is the foundation upon which solidity and predictability that we associate with the objective real are built upon.” - Baiju Parthan.



Drag, installation - solvent prints on vinyl, gif animations on LCD screens, dimensions variable, 2011



MANIFESTO ( Engineered Fruit), video projection (computer generated video), 2 min 50 sec, 2011



# Prayas Abhinav

This & this

“Characters in the global pipelines of information-flow are not simple-minded anymore. Multi-faced, holographic personas are now the model. The poetry of this game of smoke and mirrors is performed with a zest shared on all the sides of the fence: the agents and the actors. A few decades back the front-lines of this dance-charade-war had occupied also the world of bits from the world of atoms. The fractal nature of bits co-exists with its plastic shadow. Viewports often cue back to the middle of the disarray randomly with disruption in either dimension. Courtship is now a cinematic experience, a kind of biding time for another. These times are like any other and also with our

capacity to dream things which we cannot understand, tangents of progression can go anywhere. Generative with a history. Perception of patterns and complexities demands history, memory and a computation. This processing is a learnt characteristic for our epoch and species. The instruction line is the instant, the moment where dimensions get compiled into our experience. This is where resistance is; that which resists compilation floats around as an orphan fragment. And these fragments populate the buffer of our psyche with apparitions. What I see is different from what you see.

To unravel the onionskins of these apparitions is where the decay starts. That is when the static sets in. Climbing onto the moving horse, boarding the spinning carousel and getting off at a moment's distraction... is the rhythm of our waking. A percussionist attempting to read this rhythm into a beat will be constantly listening and calibrating. Meanings are placeholders for eventual substitution. Cognition is meta.”- Prayas Abhinav.

There are many ways of deciphering the present experience. And some ways of not having to. Of letting layers of unprocessed information build up and explode into some dimension of lucidity. There are two approaches for dealing with perceptual drift in this exhibition. Questions not easily answered, and questions not asked often enough as they inspire the delirium of division by zero. An impossibility.

Perception is trained by illusions. Agreements, negotiations, deals happen between faculties to establish the most basic ways of looking at the world. When this deal-making is challenged in the most radical ways, we experience things that we cherish. In this game, playing by the rules is not playing at all. Not that there are any rules to speak of, really. Every time the smoke clears and the dust settles there is a re-calibration happening.

We are talking of scales which do not have any markings. Scales which are not imposed but are discovered to be existing. The discovery of each such scale is either becoming a part of a weave we call truth or adding to the violence and disarray of our confusion. That is the pendulum we must swing on.



Grasp, wooden boxes, screen, camera, assorted objects, C++ code, 2012



This (Prayas Abhinav and Ramana ), Phase Shift, currency counting machine, camera, tv, prints



The Restoration, motors, acrylic, rubber, wood, glass, water, LCD screen, animation, 2012

## BAIJU PARTHAN

Born in Kerala, INDIA

Currently lives and works in Mumbai (Bombay)

### EDUCATION

Bachelors Degree in Painting -B.F.A

Postgraduate Diploma -Comparative Mythology

Bachelors Degree Botany -B.Sc.

Master of Arts Philosophy-MA

### NEW MEDIA PROJECTS & INSTALLATIONS

- 2009 Syncytium / Cosmopolis Installation - Living off The Grid curated By Meera Menezes - Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi.
- 2009 Arpeggio for Abbe Faria- Photo Installation- Retrieval Systems Curated by Ranjit Hoskote - Art Alive Gallery new Delhi
- 2008 RORSCHACH BREATH -Dual Channel Video-( Mechanisms of Motion) Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi,( Third life) Bombay Art Gallery Mumbai
- 2007 LIQUID MEMORY new media Installation-Christian Hosp Galleries, Nassereith, Austria
- 2005 NRLA – Live Art Festival , Midland, Perth , Australia
- 2004 FLOW-Instant Karma Algorithm-Interactive video data projection, New moves International Live Art Festival, Glasgow-UK
- 2004 Zoom ! Art in Contemporary India, Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2004 Along the X axis: video art from India and Pakistan -Apeejay Media Gallery, New Delhi
- 2003 FEED-What You See Is What You Get-Interactive video data projection-Khoj International artists camp, Bangalore, India
- 2002 Diary of the Inner Cyborg, Interactive projection, 'CODE' Interactive Digital installation-Under Construction- exhibition of Asian Contemporaray art, Organised by Japan Foundation,Tokyo, Japan
- 2002 NecessaryIllusionswith 24 cups of coffee -Interactive projection, New moves International Live Art



- Festival, Glasgow-UK
- 2002 Diary of the Inner Cyborg, Interactive projection, Stephen Lawrence Gallery. Greenwich, London
- 2002 'CODE' Interactive Digital installation 'Kapital and Karma', Kunsthalle Wien, Austria
- 2001 Video Installation-' Leap Into and Across'-Collaborative work with a Particle physicist. Venue Tata Theatre, Mumbai
- 2001 Interactive Digital Installation 'Asystole'-A Diary of the Inner Cyborg Version-0.1 The Fine Art Company Gallery, Mumbai
- 2000 Interactive Digital Installation 'Necessary Illusions With 24Cups of Coffee, Lakeeren Contemporary Art Gallery, Mumbai.
- 2000 Interactive Digital Installation 'CODE' , National Gallery of Modern Art Mumbai.
- 2000 Site specific installation 'THE CROSSING', Army-Navy Building foyer, Kalaghoda Art District, Mumbai.
- 1999 Interactive Digital Installation 'BRAHMA'S HOMEPAGE', Lakeeren Contemporary Art Gallery, Mumbai.

### SELECTED SHOWS

- 2012 INDIA- LADO A LADO curated by Tereza de Arruda, SESC Belenzinho Sao Paula, Brazil
- 2012 Variable Operatives, The Guild, Mumbai
- 2011 INDIA!, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil (CCBB), Rio de Janeiro.
- 2010 Go see India, Vasa Konsthall, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 2010 The 11th Hou, Tang contemporary art gallery, Beijing, China
- 2009 Indian Contemporary, Benedictine Museum, Fecamp, France
- 2009 Beyond Globalization, Pan Asian contemporary show, Beyond Art Space, Beijing, China
- 2008 Ghost of Souza, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2008 Everywhere is war, Bodhi Gallery,Mumbai
- 2008 101 Contemporary, Tokyo, Japan
- 2007 Rant+Liquid Memory, Vadehra Art gallery, N. Delhi
- 2007 Aparanta, Contemporary Art In Goa, Panjim
- 2006 Altered Realities (Shibu Nateshan, Baiju Parthan, Chiotrovanu Majumdar– Arts India New York
- 2005 KAAM, Gallery Artsindia New York
- 2005 Alchemy ( Baiju Parthan, Jitish Kallat, Shibu Nateshan, Chitrovanu Majumdar)
- 2005 Paths of Progressionm, Bodhi, Singapore2005-Arad biennale , Romania
- 2003 Art on Paper, Royal College of Art London
- 2002 Alchemy, Contemporay Indian and British art-Stephen Lawrence Gallery, London
- 2001 Indian Contemporary Art , California , USA, organised by saffronart.com and Apparao Galleries



2000 Sotheby's Artist of the Year Award show, National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai  
 2000 Exile and Longing, Artists from Kerala, Lakeeren Contemporary art Gallery, Mumbai  
 2000 Art and Technology 'The magazine show' National gallery of Modern Art Mumbai  
 2000 Icons of the Millennium , Nehru Centre Mumbai organized by Lakeeren Contemporary Art Gallery, Mumbai  
 Gallery Mumbai 1999 -9th Asian Biennale, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
 1999 Images and Ideas, National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai 1997-50 Years of Indian Contemporary Art Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai  
 1998 Exhibition of Indian contemporary art 'Gegenwartskunst aus Indien' (The Harsh Goenka collection), Leverkusen, Germany  
 1996 Within the Frame, Indian Contemporary Art, Visual Arts Centre, Hong Kong  
 1996 Chamatkara, Indian Contemporary Art, Whiteley's Gallery, London  
 1996 Four Visions, The Gallery, Hong Kong  
 1995 Duo show, Sarina Tang Gallery, New York

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2011 Displacement- Mill Junction part 2- Paintings and Photoworks . AICON gallery, London  
 2010 Mill Junction - Paintings and Photoworks. AICON gallery New York  
 2007 Liquid memory + Rant - Inter-media show, Vadehra Gallery New Delhi  
 2006 Source Code- Large Format paintings, Museum Gallery, Art Musings Gallery, Mumbai  
 2005 New media prints, The Guild Gallery - Mumbai  
 2002 Espace Gallery – New Delhi  
 2002 Fine Art Company- Mumbai  
 2000 Lakeeren Contemporary Art gallery  
 1999 Gallery Sumukha, Bangalore.  
 1997 Apparao Galleries, Madras.  
 1996 Chaze Gallery, Goa.  
 1995 Sophia Duchesne Gallery, Mumbai.  
 1993 Sophia Duchesne Gallery, Mumbai  
 1992 Masterpiece Gallery, N.Delhi.  
 1992 Sophia Duchesne Gallery, Mumbai.

#### PUBLIC LECTURES / PRESENTATIONS / PARTICIPATIONS

2008 Indian Contemporary art- new directions-Panel discussion at The Core Club New York  
 2006 Artist on Art – Talk at Rubin Museum New York, Organized by Art Asia Pacific

2005 New Media Lecture- Fontinhas Culture festival, Goa  
 2004 Seminar on the status of visual art in Kerala - Kashi art gallery, Cochin, Kerala.  
 2003 Lecture on new directions in New Media Art- On Invitation from British Council at Sakshi Gallery Bombay  
 2003 Lecture on Editorial Art- J.J School of Art Bombay  
 2003 Panellist- Seminar on Artists and their world views – National Centre for Performing Arts  
 2003 Presentation Lecture on developments Indian Contemporary Art - IDC - IIT Bombay  
 2003 Presentation Lecture on Technology and Art - DAIICT- Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat  
 March 2001 Panellist- Discussion on figuration in Indian Art.--National Centre for Performing Arts, Bombay

#### AWARDS

1981 Goa Lalit Kala Academy award  
 1978, 1979,  
 1980, 1981 Goa Lalit Kala Academy merit award

#### NOMINATIONS

One among the five nominees for artist of the year 2000 award by Sotheby's of London

#### RESIDENCY

Residency at Seven degrees gallery Laguna, California.  
 USA-August-September 2001, Arranged by saffronart and Apparao galleries

#### PUBLIC LECTURE/PRESENTATION

2004 Seminar on the status of visual art in Kerala-Kashi art gallery, Cochin, Kerala.  
 2003 Lecture on new directions in New Media Art-On Invitation from British Council at Sakshi Gallery Bombay  
 2003 Lecture on Editorial Art-J.J School of Art Bombay  
 2003 Panellist-Seminar on Artists and their worldviews–National Centre for Performing Arts  
 2003 Presentation Lecture on developments Indian Contemporary Art-IDC-IIT Bombay  
 2003 Presentation Lecture on Technology and Art -DAIICT-Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat  
 2001 Panelist-Discussion on figuration in Indian Art.--National Centre for Performing Arts, Bombay  
 2000 Panelist-Discussion on Modernity and despair -National Centre for Performing Arts, Bombay

## JURY

2003,2004,  
2005,2006,2008 External examiner/jury for Masters degree in Industrial Design IDC, IIT, Powai .  
2005 -2009 Jury member-Promising Artists award instituted by Art India magazine and Habitat Centre  
Delhi  
2009 National Jury -Lalit Kala National exhibition-2009

## PUBLICATION

BaijuParthan–A Users Manual by Ranjit Hoskote-Published in 2006 by Afterimage Publications, Mumbai.

1992, November, "Art is the Transmuted Experience", The Independent, Mumbai ed.  
Wednesday November 11, p11  
1994, September, "Meetings with the Dead". Metropolis on Saturday, Bombay, September 3-4, p.20  
1995, July, "Seeing the Life Light", Metropolis on Saturday, Bombay, July 29 p.20  
1995, November, "As Time Goes By", Metropolis on Sunday, Bombay, November.  
1995, December, "Flying in Your Sleep", The Metropolis on Saturday, Bombay, December 9, p.20  
1996, January, "Sophie in Wonderland", a book review of Jostein Gaarder's Novel on The History of Philosophy,  
"Sophie's World", The Sunday Review, January 28th  
1996, May, "Tomorrow's world"-a book review of Nicholas Negroponte's "Being Digital", The Sunday Review, May  
12th p.3  
1996, May, "The Eureka Experience" The Sunday Review, May, 25th, p.9  
1996, June, "Sisyphus Urbanus" The Metropolis on Saturday, Mumbai, June 22-23, p.22  
1996, July, "A Cosmology for the Information Age", The Times of India, Mumbai, July 10th, p.11  
1997, January, "The Riddle of the True Self", The Times of India, Mumbai, Jan. 25th, Mumbai, p.13  
1997, September, "From Order to Chaos", The Times of India, Mumbai, September, 3rd, p.17  
1997, December, "The Power of Graphics", Biznet, Mumbai, pp. 30-33  
1997, December, "Tracing the Protean cyber-self", The Times of India, Mumbai, Dec. 22nd, p.11  
1998, February, "Internet, the Emerging Noosphere-will Teilhard's Prophecy come True?", Biznet, pp.15-18  
1998, June, "Sacred landscapes", Humanscape, Vol. V, Issue VI, Mumbai, pp.32-33  
1998, June, "Transhumanism-Self Identity in the Cyberage", Biznet, Mumbai, pp.13-17  
1998, July, "Getting a Grip on Ourselves", The Times of India, Mumbai, July 20, p.11  
1998, October, "Samadhi and Superconsciousness", Humanscape, Vol. V, Issue X, Mumbai, pp.30-33  
1999, February, "Selfhood in the time of Cyborg", The Times of India, Mumbai, Feb. 13th, pp. 13  
1999, February, "Asceticism in the Age of Consumption", Humanscape, Mumbai, pp.14-17

1999, April, "Zen and Art of Resting", Gentleman, pp. 60 -62  
1999, April, "Only Connect", The Times of India,  
Mumbai, April, 14th, p.17  
1999, July, "The Lure of Catastrophe", Humanscape, pp.25  
2000, October, " Re-telling history" ,  
2000 December, "The Artist as He is", Gentleman, pp.73-75  
2001, March, "The Act of Seduction", Gentleman,  
Pp.80- 82  
2001, March, "The Act of Seduction", Gentleman, pp.80-82  
2002, December, "Layers of significance", International Gallerie, pp.21-29  
2005 KAAM interviews—Interviews with Ten Indian contemporary artists  
2007 Nostrum-catalogue essay, Anant Joshi Exhibition catalogue  
2008 Untold stories-Interview of TV Santhosh-Indian Contemporary artist.  
2010 Exploring the Metascape- Akbar Padamsee- Work in language, Marg Publications

## PRAYAS ABHINAV

1982 Born  
Lives and works in Bangalore (India).

### EDUCATION

2007–09 Advanced Diploma in Experimental Media Arts, CEMA, Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology (Bangalore)

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS AND FESTIVALS

2012 outResourcing, Resource @ Transmediale (Berlin, Germany)  
2012 Variable operatives: Baiju Parthan and Prayas Abhinav, The Guild (Mumbai)  
2011 Words: a user's manual, curated by Himali Singh Soin, exhibit 320 (New Delhi)  
2011 Public Policy – dislocate 11, curated by Emma Ota (Tokyo, Japan)  
2011 Coded Cultures: City As Interface, curated by Super.net (Vienna, Austria)  
2011 Generation in Transition New Art from India, curated by Magda Kardasz, Zachęta National Gallery Of Art (Warsaw, Poland)  
2011 On the Sidereal, The Guild Art Gallery (Mumbai)  
2011 Louder Whisper, curated by Meena Vari, CRISAP (London, UK)  
2011 Myth <-> Reality, curated by Veeranganakumari Solanki, The Guild Art Gallery (Mumbai)  
2010 City As Studio 10.03, Sarai, New Delhi  
2010 CONSUME, curated by Papo Colo, Jeanette Ingberman, Lauren Rosati and Herb Tam, Exit Art (New York, USA)  
2010 Continuum Transfunctioner, curated by Geetanjali Dang, exhibit 320 (New Delhi)  
2010 Contested Space - Incursions, curated by Heidi Fichtner, Gallery Seven Arts (New Delhi)  
2009 Astonishment of being, curated by Deeksha Nath, Birla Academy of Art and Culture (Kolkatta)  
2009 Environment 2.0, Peter Scott Gallery, Lancaster University (Lancaster, UK)  
2009 Trade City, Manchester International Festival (Manchester, UK)  
2009 Futuresonic festival, CUBE Gallery (Manchester, UK)  
2008 48c: Public Art Ecology, curated by Pooja Sood, New Delhi  
2007 Open Frame Film Festival (New Delhi)  
2007 8th Madurai Documentary and Short Film Festival Film Festival (Madurai)  
2007 Biennale du carnet de voyage (Clermont Ferrand, France)



### RESIDENCIES AND WORKSHOPS

2011 Coded Cultures:City as Interface residency curated by the Transmediale (Vienna, Austria)  
2010 Art + Public, Periphery @ Desire machine collective (Guwahati)  
2009 Sculpture workshop @ Sandarbh (Baroda)  
2008 Peers @ Khoj (New Delhi)  
2005 Poetry residency, Vermont Studio Center (Vermont, USA)

### CURATORIAL PROJECTS

2011 On the Sidereal, Residency and exhibition, The Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai  
2010 Space the final frontier, Talks and exhibition, Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore  
2008–09 Collaborated in the conceptualization and organization of projects at n.e.w.s. (<http://northeastwestsouth.net>)  
+ Unspeakably More: naming, deframing (Periphery, Guwahati)  
+ Shadow Search Project (Web-based open call and project)  
+ Arbitrating Attention: reinvesting attention surplus in plausible artworlds (book project)  
2003–05 Edited and published the Crimson Feet literary arts magazine

### FELLOWSHIPS

2009 TED India Fellowship  
2009 12-month Openspace/CCDS (Pune) Fellowship for working on CitySpinning in Bangalore  
2006 Kumar Talkies (Mumbai) / PSBT Fellowship for young filmmakers  
2005 Environmental film fellowship, Center for Media Studies (New Delhi)  
2005 Independent Research Fellowship, Sarai/CSDS (New Delhi)

### CONFERENCES AND TEACHING

2010 now Faculty and artist-in-residence at Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology (Bangalore)  
2009 Workshop, Dutch Art Institute (Arnhem, Netherlands)  
2008 Paper presentation, Sensory Urbanism, University of Strathclyde (Glasgow, UK)  
2006 Presentation, Paris Accord: (Paris, France)  
2006 Paper presentation, FM10: Openness, Code, Content (Chicago, USA)

**The Guild**  
*Art Gallery*

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