



SPECTRAL TIMES
by
SARNATH BANERJEE

CURATED BY TASNEEM ZAKARIA MEHTA
CO-CURATED BY HIMANSHU KADAM

23 FEBRUARY – 26 MAY 2019



Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum presents ‘SPECTRAL TIMES’ by Sarnath Banerjee, curated by Tasneem Zakaria Mehta and co-curated by Himanshu Kadam. The exhibition will be on view from 23 February – 26 May 2019 at the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum.



About the Exhibition

Sarnath Banerjee, the acclaimed graphic novelist, responds to Mumbai and the Museum's historic collection with a trove of stories that allude to or are directly inspired by the Museum. Narrated in the form of a magazine interview with the intrepid reporter, Birjis Bari who works with The Spectral Times, the uncanny stories reveal the extraordinary lives of ordinary people. Sarnath works form both a visual and literary urban archive and respond to the Museum as archive and a repository of memories. Like most forms of story telling the Museum is a place of enchantment, where the unreal becomes real. In deploying both sound and visuals, Sarnath creates different registers of reference and meaning. He encourages you to stop and listen, to question appearances. In creating urban legends that are at a slight tangent to reality he encourages us to reflect upon our lives and those of others with tongue firmly in his cheek.

Curators

Tasneem Zakaria Mehta

Himanshu Kadam

About the artist

Sarnath Banerjee had written four books of graphic fiction. 'Corridor', 'The Barn Owl's Wondrous Capers', 'The Harappa Files' and 'All Quiet in Vikaspuri' and recently 'Doabdil'.

As part of his ongoing project involving collaboration with historians, Banerjee had produced 'Liquid History of Vasco Da Gama' for the Kochi Biennial, 2014, and 'The Poona Circle', a series of vandalised history textbooks, for the Pune Biennale, 2017. The same year, for Frans-Hals Museum, Harlem, he produced 'I Got Ginger', 2017; a series of drawings and text that proposes the making an 'insubordinate' childrens' book on Dutch colonialism. His billboard series, 'Gallery of Losers', commissioned by Frieze Projects East, for the 2012 London Olympics, was widely displayed in East London. In 2016, he was commissioned over 80 murals by Deutsche Bank, for their new office in Canary Wharf.

In 2008, Banerjee co-founded the award-winning publishing house Phantomville that brought together reporters and comic-book artists to produce works of visual journalism.

Sarnath Banerjee had studied at Goldsmith College, London and currently lives in Berlin.



ABOUT THE DR. BHAU DAJI LAD MUMBAI CITY MUSEUM:

The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum opened to the public in 1857 and is Mumbai's oldest museum. It is the erstwhile Victoria and Albert Museum, Bombay that showcases the city's art and culture through a rare collection of fine and decorative arts that highlight early Modern Art practices as well as the craftsmanship of various communities of the Bombay Presidency.

The Museum was in a derelict condition and underwent a comprehensive five-year restoration by INTACH supported by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation. The project won UNESCO's international Award of Excellence for cultural conservation in 2005. The Museum re-opened in 2008 with an extensive exhibition programme and is committed to promoting contemporary art and culture.

The Museum hosts an extensive exhibitions programme, which explores the importance of the collection and includes a strong focus on contemporary art and culture. The Museum has partnered with several international institutions to showcase artists and exhibitions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, British Library, Solomon R Guggenheim Museum and Museum of Modern Art in an effort to facilitate international cultural exchange.

The Museum's education and outreach programme aims to build and diversify the Museum's audiences. On offer is a rich selection of programmes including film, music and courses and lectures on history of art focused on providing stimulating, participatory experiences that respond to different age, interest and language groups, and recognize a diversity of backgrounds. These experiences are aimed at encouraging critical engagement with Mumbai's history, art and cultural developments.

For more information on Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum, please visit:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BDLMuseum

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BDLMuseum>

Website: www.bdlmuseum.org



For Listings

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City presents ‘SPECTRAL TIMES’ by **Sarnath Banerjee**, curated by **Tasneem Zakaria Mehta** and co-curated by **Himanshu Kadam**.

23 February – 26 May 2019

Exhibition Venue:

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum
91A Rani Baug, Veer Mata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan
Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marg,
Byculla East, Mumbai 400027

Timings:

10:00 am to 6:00 pm | last entry 5:30 pm
Closed on Wednesdays and certain public holidays

For press enquiries, please contact
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