The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum presents, Speculations from the Field, by Rohini Devasher, an exhibition curated by Tasneem Zakaria Mehta, and co-curated by Himanshu Kadam. The exhibition is on view at the Kamalnayan Bajaj Special Exhibitions Gallery from 21st August - 4th October 2016.
ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

'Speculations from the Field' brings together recent work by the artist Rohini Devasher, whose practice explores art, science and fiction through fieldwork and research in astronomy.

The artist's 'field' explores terrestrial sites as well as deep space, deep time as the locus of both the human imagination and its extraordinary ambition. In the artist's rendering an inert object takes on a disturbingly sensual form. Her interest in recording and mapping the skies, sea forts, observatories and other such scientific centres and methodologies recall the early history of the Museum which was a similar site for such mappings. She has worked with the Museum collection to unpack its implications as a site of collection and a form of collective perception.

Rohini has worked with the Museum’s rarely seen collection of natural history objects and artefacts, a remnant of the times when it was the erstwhile Government Central Museum with the emphasis on natural history and geology.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Rohini Devasher (B. 1978, New Delhi, India)

Devasher has trained as a painter and printmaker, and works in a variety of media including sound, video, prints and large site-specific drawings. Her current body of work is a collection of ‘strange’ terrains, constructed by observing, recording, fictionalizing, and re-imagining objects and spaces that exist at the interface between science, nature and culture, perception and production.
Devasher’s work has been shown at the MAAT Museum of Art and Technology, Lisbon, ZKM (Karlsruhe), Singapore Art and Science Museum, Dhaka Art Summit 2016, Whitechapel Gallery, London (2016), 5th Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial (2014), Kochi-Muziris Biennale (2012), The Wanås Foundation, Sweden, Courtauld Institute of Art, Zacheta National Gallery of Art, in Warsaw, among others. She has had solo exhibitions at the Vis-a-Vis Experience Centre in New Delhi (2016), Project 88, Mumbai (2013, 2009), KHOJ, New Delhi (2013) and Nature Morte, New Delhi (2011). She has been an artist in residence at KHOJ, New Delhi (2015, 2007), the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (2014), Glasgow Print Studio (2014), Metal Culture, UK (2013), and The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin (2012) and most recently participated in the Anthropocene Campus - the Technosphere Issue at the HKW, Berlin. Forthcoming projects in 2016 include Colomboscope - Testing Grounds: Art and Digital Cultures in South Asia and Europe and Temporal Turn at the Spencer Museum of Art (Kansas), US.

Devasher was the recipient of the Forbes India Young Contemporary Artist of the Year (2014), Skoda Breakthrough Artist Award (2013) and the Sarai Associate Fellowship (2010). The artist lives and works in Noida, India.

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, with a unique collection that includes the decorative arts, paintings, rare books and photographs, models and dioramas that document the life of the people of Mumbai and the history of the city from the late 18th to the early 20th century.
The Museum, once in a derelict condition, 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. A series of curated exhibitions titled, ‘Engaging Traditions,’ invites artists to respond to the Museum’s collection, history and archives, addressing issues that speak directly to the traditions and issues that underlie the founding of the Museum, yet evoke the present by challenging orthodoxies and questioning assumptions.

The Museum has partnered with international institutions to showcase artists and exhibitions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, British Council, British Library, Dresden State Art Collections, Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Ermenegildo Zegna Group and Guild of the Dome Association in an effort to facilitate international cultural exchange. The Museum has expanded its curatorial initiative to invite external curators, institutions and organisations to present exhibitions related to focus areas of the collections.

The Museum’s education and outreach programme aims to build and diversify the Museum’s audiences, encouraging repeat visits and engaged participation with its permanent collections, contemporary exhibitions and activities. 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, and artistic and cultural developments.

For Listings:

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum presents

Speculations from the Field

By Rohini Devasher

Curated by Tasneem Zakaria Mehta and co-curated by Himanshu Kadam.


Exhibition Venue:

Kamalnayan Bajaj Special Exhibitions Gallery

The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum

Veer Mata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan

91/A Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Road, Rani Baug

Byculla East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400027

Phone: 022-23731234

Timings: 10:00 am - 5.30 pm. Closed on Wednesdays.

For further press enquiries, please contact:

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