



The Birth of A Pea Plant, 2023

Roots and Trajectories: Art & Science residency at Institute of Science and Technology Austria

“The Birth of A Pea Plant”, is an observation based installation that analyses the optical sensory development in plants by repositioning the plant instead of a human. The plant here is referred to as a “spectator” for a rainbow experience to happen through “body of sensory perception”.



Sculpture Library, 2023

Patience of Ordinary Things, Vadehra Art Gallery

Materials: Old Books, Arduino, 12V power supply, controllers, 220V compressor, Aluminium horn, nuts and bolts , Mixed Media drawings and paintings on paper, Technique: Kinetic sculpture

Cloud Messenger, 2022

The Post-Human : Art and Technology Residency at ACC, Gwangju
Synthetic thread, fan, Aluminium plates, bell, motors, mixed
media, variable installation

Cloud-Messenger is an exploration of art at the intersection of philosophy, technology, humanity, mythology, and science, juxtaposing knowledge (mind), prayer (act), duality (experience), and enlightenment (state) represented through kinetic sculptures. These intrinsically human reflections in the form of machines intend to serve the purpose of making its audience reflect upon the need for philosophy in today's time.

The title *Cloud-Messenger* is derived from a Sanskrit literary work *Meghadootam* by Kalidasa written in the 5th century CE. It tells the story of a Yaksha (a "divine attendant of Kubera, god of wealth" in Indian mythology) who is exiled for a year from his home and his young bride. As several months pass and the rainy season comes, the Yaksha asks a passing cloud to convey a message to his distant beloved.

Video →



The poem describes the route the cloud goes through and the things it sees and encounters. Vividly describing the journey from the southern to the northern subcontinent, the cloud is beyond being a backbone of the poetry and enlivens the journey through its own gaze. The transformation of matter(cloud) into an investigating character carrying information(storage) in the story inspires the artist to draw a parallel between an imagined cloud and a physical cloud.

Working in synchronisation, the cloud-messenger takes off a flight once the holy bell is rung. As per the scholar and philosopher *Ted Schatzki*, posthumanism of the philosophical kind can also be observed/read through 'objectivism'. It tries to counter the overemphasis of the subjective or intersubjective that pervades humanism and emphasizes the role of nonhuman agents, whether animals and plants, computers, or other things. Similarly, *Cloud-Messenger* utilizes non-human agents or objects like; Chamaras (fan made of animal hair), Buddhist Gong Bell, and traditional Indian Gong Bell, these are controlled and performed through mechanical means under the pretext of human gestures performed to please the deity and to gain enlightenment.

Video →





Page Turner (2020)

Video →

The Last Brahmin (Solo Show) at Villa Arson, Nice

Materials: Books, book stands, machine, Technique: Kinetic sculpture ,Dimensions: 101cm x 46cm x 33cm (series of 10)

Referring the old school teachings; malleable ideas, cultural and political information were received, preserved and transmitted orally from one generation to another until systems that enabled its visual representation came to be considered reliable forms for information storage and transfer. In my understanding, the 'reliability' of printed matter is subject to a process of coding and decoding that engages the learner/reader in memorising signs, symbols and the associated sounds, essential to language learning. But what all is persisted or lost in this process of transformation? *Page Turner* comments on this through the process of mechanical reading in order to learn. Where, the process of turning pages remains a hollow act and a mockery of the practice of reading.



Single hand (2022)

Colomboscope (interdisciplinary Art festival,) at Colombo Sri Lanka

Materials: Arduino, 12V power supply, 220V compressor, Aluminium horn, nuts and bolts ,Technique: Kinetic sculpture

The Tongue Sculpture which broadcasts recorded sound heightens divisiveness and illegibility among diverse narratives, and alienation among communities that we witness. It also evokes empty speech or rhetoric that distances itself from productive meaning.

Video 



One Way (On Going)

Video [→](#)

Materials: Leather Shoes, Arduino, 12V power supply, nuts and bolts , iron structure, Technique: Kinetic sculpture

“One way” is a project conceived and conceptualised with the queries into the material and its associated actions. Countering the linearity provided through actions, the project is entitled as “one way” with observations and ideas related to various practices. This will be exploring the artistic possibilities and explorations by collecting various footwear and recreating the swiftness and mechanical actions reverberating the sound of walking.



Prayer Machine (2020)

Video →

The Last Brahmin (Solo Show) at Villa Arson, Nice

Materials: Wood, copper, brass, motors, turmeric, milk, ash, kumkum, sindhoor, glass, animal hair, cotton flowers, Technique: Kinetic sculpture, Dimensions: Variable

You have the right to perform your actions, but you are not entitled to the fruit of the action. Taking reference from the above quote from Geeta- the holy text; Prayer Machine attempts to highlight the machine-like nature of human beings and investigates the ethics followed to access and run a temple.



Chamara (2020)

The Last Brahmin (Solo Show) at Villa Arson, Nice

Materials: Automobile spare parts (windshield wiper), animal hair, broomstick, Technique: Kinetic sculpture, Technique: Kinetic sculpture, Dimensions: Variable

Video →

The act of driving away insects and purifying the air in a sanctum-sanctorum is called Chamara-Seva (Chamara- a brush fan made out of animal hair). Through the day, this mechanical act of Chamara-Seva was performed almost like a dance using the object and the hands. The continuous loops of movements in the Chamara machine depict this mechanical act that have been going on forever.



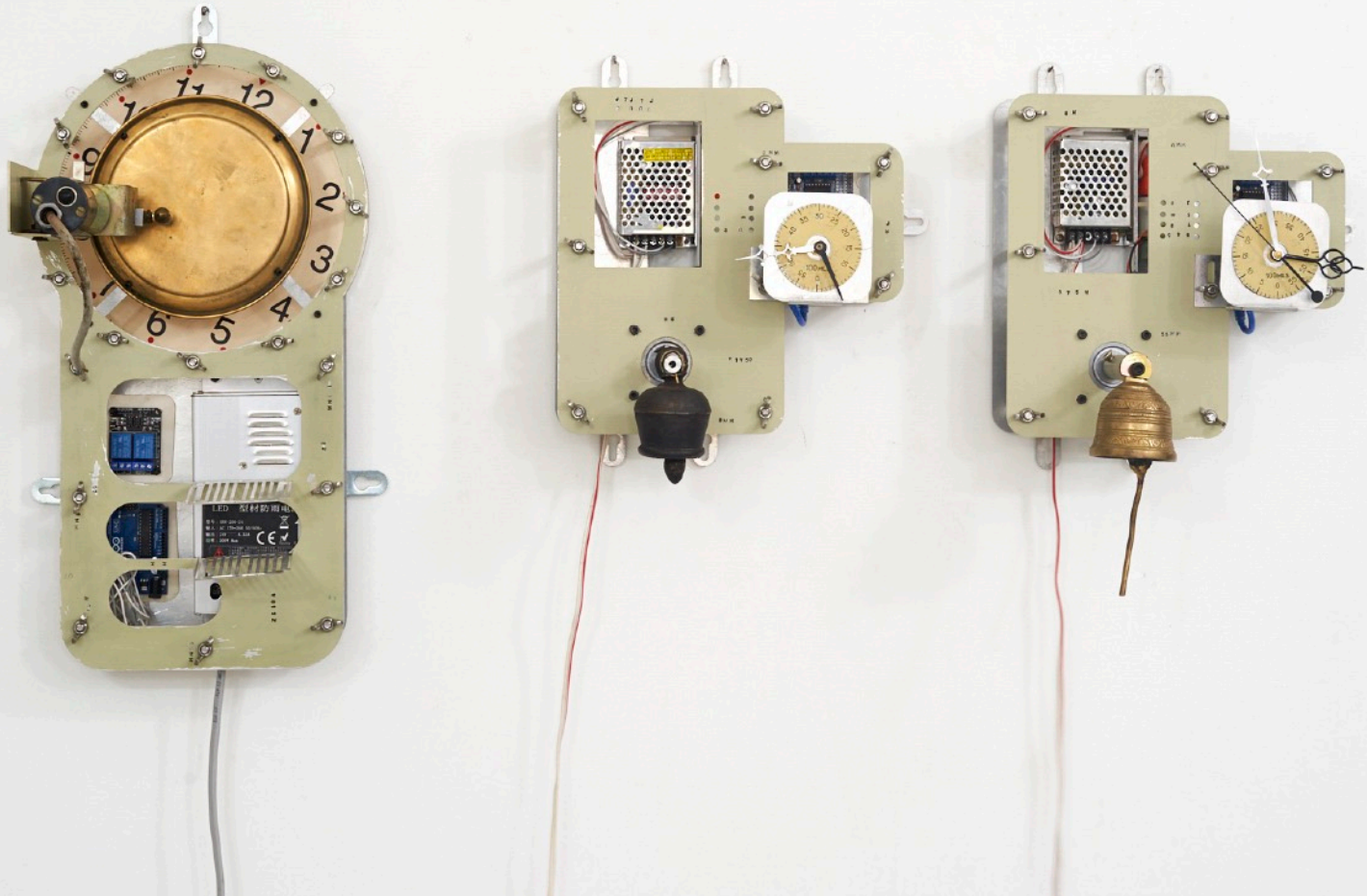
Melting Lotus (2020)

The Last Brahmin (Solo Show) at Villa Arson, Nice

Materials: Paraffin wax, wood, heater Technique: Interactive Sculpture Dimensions: Variable

Video →

Like the state of mind, life too is in a constant state of formation and deformation. One of the most significant Hindu pilgrimages takes devotees on a long, arduous journey to witness an ice Linga in a cave that is naturally formed from the freezing of water drops that fall from a crevice in the roof. Just like the Linga in the Amarnath cave is not the same every year or even every moment, life and all its moments too, form, deform, and reform, while we learn, grow, share and change. The Melting Lotus is a participatory installation of wax-cast lotus (a spiritual symbol depicting many things). The viewers were invited to put the wax lotus into a hot-pan, that melted it into a mountain or linga like form.



Room of Disquiet (2021)

The(Pro)Found Object (Group Show) ,At Vadehra art Gallery New Delhi

Materials: Arduino, 12V power supply, Solenoid , Aluminium, nuts and bolts ,Technique: Kinetic sculpture

An interesting negation of the word quiet, as it does not quite present the same meaning as 'noise'. The multiple inter-acting kinetic machine brings the sensual to the mundane. It is the artist's rendition of time and the arbitrariness of its definitive identity. The room of disquiet is a room where time does not function in the normative sense. The clocks work backwards, or they do not have hours or dials, but a pressure/weight gauge, along with a backward moving clock hand. The idea of the anti-clock is rife in the room, with the auditory experience of time not working in conjunction with the visual element, creating a discomfort with what one sees and what they can hear.

Video →

Video →



Anti-Clock from The Room of Disquiet

The(Pro)Found Object (Group Show) ,At Vadehra art Gallery New Delhi

Materials:, Anti moving Old clock, Brass mettlesheet, wood ,Dimensions: 36X36X3 inches,Technique: Kinetic sculpture



00:00pm from The Room of Disquiet

The(Pro)Found Object (Group Show) At Vadehra art Gallery New Delhi

Materials: Neon light & Timer, Technique: Installation, Dimensions: 24X6X3 inches



Philosophy Machine (2017)

Tarka (Solo Show) at Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi

Video →

Materials: Wood, motor, kerosene lamp, blower, gas torch Techniques: Kinetic sculpture & Drawing Dimension: 91cm (diameter) x 61cm (height)

Philosophy Machine consists of a rotating disc installed with a ring of lamps, attached with a pipe on either end—one lights aflame and the other extinguishes it to create an infinite cycle or circle of motion and animation. It conveys the cyclical nature of things—of birth and death of knowledge, philosophies, and theories—with a sense of absurdity and playfulness.



Video →

Milk Thread (2017)

Tarka (Solo Show) at Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi

Materials: Wood, Motor, Milk, Honey, Sandal wood, Stone ,Techniques: Kinetic sculpture & Drawing ,Dimension: Variable

KshirDhara (Milk Thread) looks at the act of rubbing as a means of creating friction to produce something. Using paraphernalia that is commonly part of religious ceremonies, these kinetic structures question the notions of practice, the physical body and symbolic meanings that are often given.



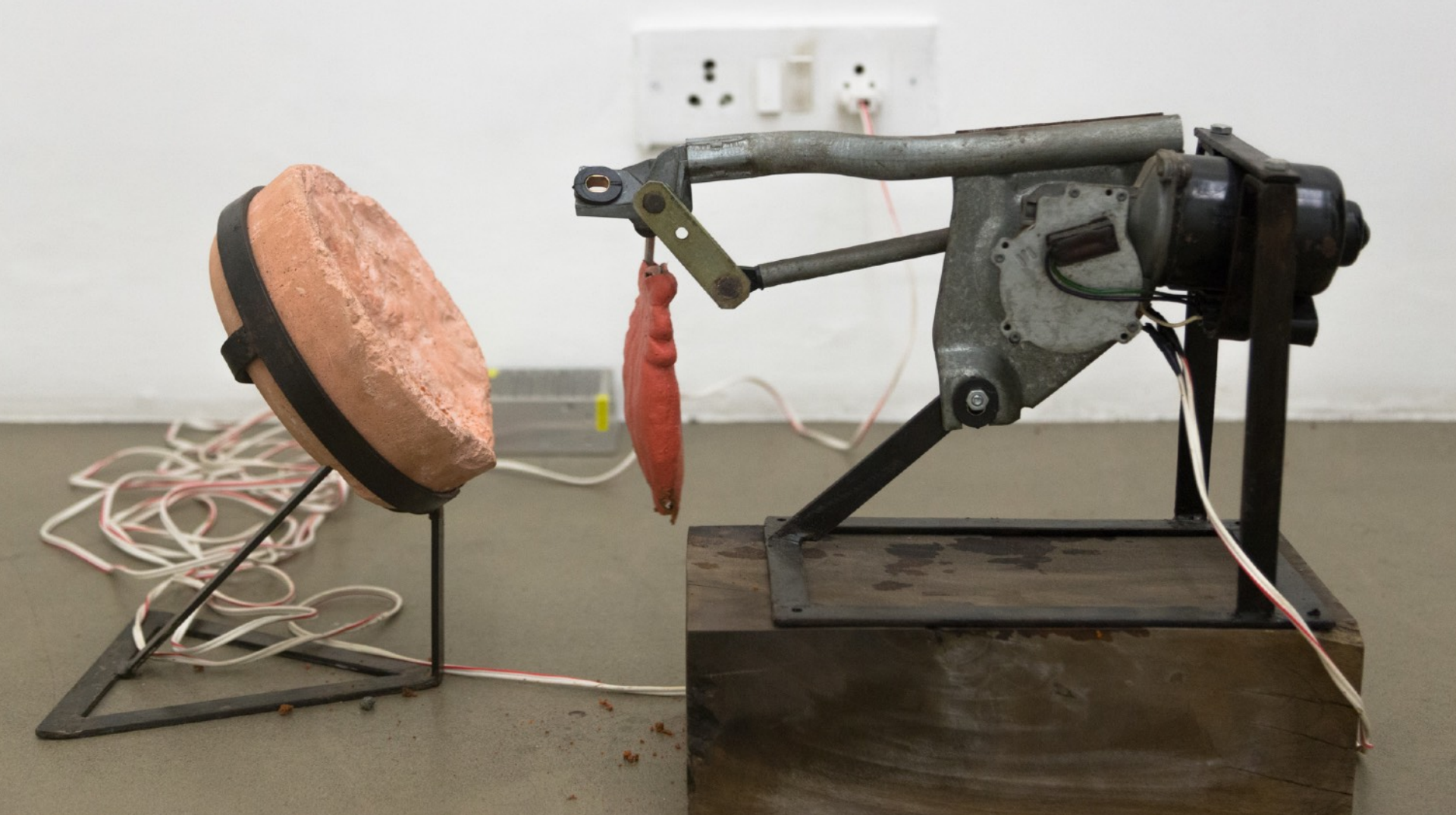
Rainbow machine (2017)

Tarka (Solo Show) ,at Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi

Materials: Wood, Automobile spare parts (windshield wiper), ink and Water,Techniques: Kinetic sculpture & Drawing ,Dimension: Variable

Video →

Exhibiting artificial or controlled environments extends the human experience by enabling extremely scarce environments to flourish. It intends the viewer to experience a phenomenon that they might have not experienced for real. Ultimately drawing pleasure from objects or machines often mimicking nature and analysing the nature of the non-human. Rainbow is an ephemeral state; ever changing , dissolving and reforming; in the installation as well the focus remains on reformation, encountering and registration of an ephemeral event .



Tongue (2017)

Tarka (Solo Show) at Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi

Materials: Rubber, dental mould, motors, iron ,Techniques: Kinetic sculpture ,Dimension: Variable

Video →

Exploring various bodily functions of taste and sensations that the organ evokes this kinetic work also explores the various speech acts – from a satirical dig at the hollowness of political rhetoric to the excessive jargon that often circulates in contemporary art world to the role of aural as opposed to the textual.



Exhibition Views: Asian Cultural Centre, Gwangju, South Korea

The Cloud Messenger

15th Dec, 2022- 5th March, 2023

https://www.acc.go.kr/en/exhibition.do?PID=0202&action=Read&bnkey=EM_0000005950

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Exhibition Views: Photos by François Fernandez / Villa Arson

The Last Brahmin

14th Feb-20th Oct, 2020

<https://shailubr.wixsite.com/thelastbrahmin>

<https://www.cnap.fr/shailesh-br>

Unravelling the layers of the caste system in India by philosophically revisiting its core structure rather than following the conflicted one - intervening deep into its formation and deformation, decoding the idea of inheritance of tradition, and the monotony of everyday rituals and practices. Enter the scared space of a Brahmin house to experience, inquire, and challenge the notions from your own perspective.



Tarka

Vadehra Art Gallery 13th July to 12th August, 2017

<https://ficart.org/shailesh-br>

Tarka Shastra, a philosophy which analyses the source of knowledge and its verification through the art of debate, Shailesh goes further on to decode the very politics of such a debate that is deployed as a validification tool. 'यत्र यत्र धूमः तत्र तत्र वह्निः' - translated as: 'Where there is smoke, there will inevitably be fire', a proverb that exemplifies the methodology of such an analysis, becomes a point of contention for Shailesh as he explores the established connections and connotations between 'smoke' and 'fire'. His works become visual counterpoints towards understanding such pre-conceived notions.