

NARRATIVES OF STRENGTH AND SURVIVAL / AN ARCHIVE THE HIMMAT WORKSHOPS

Art project funded by the India Foundation for the Arts,
Participants: Tasleem Qureshi, Rabia Sheikh, Shah Jehan Sheikh, Tahera Pathan,
Farzana Sheikh, Rehana Sheikh.
Co-ordinated by Vasudha Thozhur
Himmat, Mayur Park, Vatva.

Grants and Group Shows

December/February 2006

The girls won the '**Mirror Amdavad**' fellowship offered by Drishti (Media, Arts and Human Rights) for a project which involved painting and performance – entitled **Paani ki Museebat**. It was performed at **Faizal Park, Navapura** (2 performances), **Ekta Nagar, Mayur Park** (at Himmat), the **GSF, Ahmedabad** and informally for visiting groups on several occasions. The performance was also filmed by Johanna Hoyne and the girls, as a documentary by the same title.

October 2006

A month-long residency at Khoj International Artists' Workshops to compile work from the project and to think through ways of displaying of such material. Six films were edited from footage shot by the girls: **Cutting Chai, Paani Ki Museebat, Himmat, A Film for Bibi Banoo, and Interviews**.

Some of the paintings were also shown at the **Gujarat Social Forum in Ahmedabad, WSF in Delhi**, at the Himmat stall, at a **peace festival in Bombay**.

February 28, 2007

A large exhibit was mounted at the **Hutteesingh Gallery at the CEPT campus, as part of Sach ki Yaadein, Yadon ka Sach**, organized by several NGOs in Ahmedabad, on the 5th anniversary of the carnage.

March

Experimenta 2007 (Bangalore and Bombay): Screening of '**Cutting Chai**', one of the films edited from video footage shot by the participants. Also screened earlier by **VIKALP**, Bombay

Reproductions and two of the films were represented at '**Moving People**', **WSF, Nairobi**, in '**Follow the Arrow: Investigating Movement**' an event curated by **Archana Hande and Mamta Murthy**.

Posters from the project, including stills from the films, were compiled into a separate presentation for a seminar organized by Sahiyar at the Fine Art Faculty premises. It was also an attempt to explore the many different kinds of functions that posters can perform.

April/May

Both Cutting Chai and the collaborative painting of 13 panels have been shown in Vasudha Thozhur's solo exhibitions at Sakshi Bombay and at Vadehra art Gallery, New Delhi.

October

'After-Images', an exhibition held in the wake of what developed around the arrest of Chandra Mohan, a student of the MSU. A four-day workshop was conducted at the centre, and three paintings by **Rabia, Tahera and Taslim were exhibited at the show. Two were bought by Sakshi Gallery.**

2007 Tahera and Rabia were enrolled in an open schooling programme, and the funds will support their education.

Selected images of paintings/drawings/posters have been printed as cards by Himmat. The girls periodically paint the walls of the centre, and also work with volunteers who regularly visit Himmat. Tahera attends community workshops regularly, as one of the Himmat representatives, as she is vocal, articulate and has strong views on most things.

'Cutting Chai' – the film

The film is one of five, edited from video footage shot by the girls. Most of them are of an ambient nature, except for Cutting Chai, which perhaps also has a component of narrative.

The camera was handled by Tahera Sheikh, Shah Jehan Sheikh, Tasleem Qureshi and Rabia Sheikh, and the editing was done during a month-long residency at Khoj, New Delhi.

It was shown at the following venues:

Khoj, New Delhi, 2006.

Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai, and Vadehra Art Gallery, as part of a solo exhibition,,2007.

Experimenta 2007, a film festival (Bangalore and Bombay).

At a screening/discussion of videos by artists at Vikalp, Mumbai, 2007.

At Sakshi Gallery and Project 88, as part of the project installation 'Beyond Pain: An Afterlife' in 2013.

At JNU, as part of the project installation 'Beyond Pain: An Afterlife' in 2015.

Reproductions and two of the films were represented at 'Moving People', WSF, Nairobi, in 'Follow the Arrow: Investigating Movement' an event curated by Archana Hande and Mamta Murthy.

Posters from the project, including stills from the films, were compiled into a separate presentation for a seminar organized by Sahiyar and Kali for Women at the Fine Art Faculty premises. It was also an attempt to explore the many different kinds of functions that posters can perform.

Images of their paintings were used as illustrations for NCERT textbooks. They are still in circulation.