

THE LOFT  
at Lower Parel

## Nature as Image

Curated by Subuhi Jiwani

Neha Choksi

Priyanka Dasgupta

Munir Kabani

Shambhavi Kaul

Zubin Pastakia

April 16th - May 3rd, 2011

# Curatorial Axis

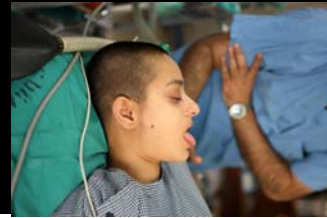
In our screen-mediated and technology-saturated lives, images on Google Earth and Discovery seem, at times, to bring us closest to nature. Our contact with the natural world is increasingly taking place through the screen and the image. For inhabitants of the modern metropolis, nature is the human Other and its simulation, a satisfying alternative for the 'real' thing. The self, now aligned with technology, is seen not as an extension of the natural but in opposition to it. This might arouse fears about a time when humankind will know nature only through its representation, but such apocalyptic notions can be resisted and we can begin to think about how technology mediates our perception of nature.

*Nature as Image* presents five artists from India and its diaspora who engage with the natural world. Their works in photography, video and film speak in different voices—from observational to contemplative—and in muted tones. Some eschew the restrictive boundaries of sentiment and environmentalism. Others reflect on Nature's unnoticed details and incontestable power. The screen becomes the channel through which these artists gaze at nature, subvert realistic representations of it, and envision new relations between the natural and post-industrial worlds. At its most elemental, this exhibition asks how artists dialogue with nature using technology.

# Why?



# Artists



Neha Choksi



Priyanka Dasgupta



Munir Kabani



Shambhavi Kaul



Zubin Pastakia

# Neha Choksi



*Document of an Escape for Gravity's Birthday (dedicated to the memory of the dog who could not escape in 79 AD)*

3-channel video with sound, looped, dimensions variable, running time ranges from 4:48 to 14:05 minutes, 2005

# Neha Choksi





# Priyanka Dasgupta



*Obscure, Forget*

Single channel video installation, Colour, Sound, 5 mins 51 secs, India/USA, 2010

# Munir Kabani



## *Mmmoth*

Photo-collage consisting of 74 images, 4' x 8' (approx.),  
India, 2011



## *Fly Eye*

Eye wear installation.

Moulded fibreglass, lenses and iridescent paint,  
7" x 3" x 3" , India, 2011



# Munir Kabani



# Shambhavi Kaul



## *Scene 32*

Single channel video (16mm/HD), Black & White/Colour,  
Sound, 5 mins, India/USA, 2009



# Zubin Pastakia



Images from the *Fryslân series*

Pigmented inkjet prints on archival paper, 18" x 24", India, 2010

# Zubin Pastakia



# Learning...

- The interplay between the curatorial idea and the artworks
- The burden of contextualisation: The curator as interlocutor
- The conundrum of the wall text: Poetry or Direct Address?
- RCA cables to VGA cables: Equipment rental and the challenges of showing and installing video
- “What’s the conceptual part of curating???”
- Curation is essentially selection, organisation, advocacy.