

Galerie Nathalie Obadia

bruxelles

Rina Banerjee

Creationism's Kiss

7 September – 3 November 2012



*In the begining a collision mirrored and multiplying,
mutations masked caused excesses in connections, cross
linking and folding, masqueraded and yet revealing lay open
from puncture a different space that send them my sisters
hurdlng !, 2012, mixed media on paper, 28,5 x 38 cm – 11 1/4 x 15 in.*

The Nathalie Obadia Gallery is delighted to support Rina Banerjee on the occasion of her second exhibition in its premises in Brussels.

Born in Calcutta, India, in 1963, the American artist will show a set of drawings and small sculptures that attest to her reflection on the theory of Creationism. Widespread in the United States, and actually opposed to the theory of evolution, this religious doctrine defends the belief according to which men and women were created by God. A scientist by training, Rita Banerjee has watched with alarm the rise of this fundamentalism in decisive political stakes – education, freedom of opinion and beliefs. In line with an artistic production that denounces the globalisation of cultural perceptions and identities between East and West – locally and globally, the artist warns us here about the risk of a literal reading of the original Creation.

Through her drawings and sculptures, Rina Banerjee evokes the birth of a universe prior to which there was no particle nor molecule and no life. In imagining that there was something that was nothing if not suspect, she calls *The Kiss* the explosion that saved us from nothingness. Since then, man has borne the burden of his loneliness, denying death and desiring his Creator, in search of that moment which marked the beginning of infinite worlds it gave us to see.

The visual seduction of Rina Banerjee's works on paper is a lure, an aesthetic trap that beckons the viewer not to be satisfied with what is given to see, and therefore to believe, but to *interpret* the hybrid nature of these figures. Grotesque and monstrous, Rina Banerjee's silhouettes are created with a precise delineation that chisels the contours delicately by means of richly coloured ink, where the composition is airy, with traits of female figures, and what is at times an ornamental motif. As in *The Temptation of Saint Anthony* by Hieronymus Bosch, where hybrid half-man, half-animal creatures denounce the heretics "who resemble all those who are opposed to the righteous truth and holy doctrine, and find new opinions and inventions through which they wish to darken the law of God" (Robert Delevoy, citing Ruysbroeck, author of the *Liber de Tabernaculo*, 14th century), the sensuality of Rina Banerjee's chimeric figures must not lead us to forget the metaphorical dimension.

The profile of faces in the style of Indian miniature, the personal mythology of the artist, scientific discoveries, man who travels, knowledge: Rina Banerjee's universal referencing system in the works on show at the exhibition fuels the viewer's eternal thinking about the ever disappointing quest of man to identify his origins.

Selected exhibitions beginning 2000 : Whitney Biennial (2001), Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (2003), Brooklyn Museum Of Art (2004), The Queens Museum of Art, NY (2005), "Greater New York Show" at PS1/MOMA, NY (2005). In 2008, the Nathalie Obadia Gallery presented the artist at Art Basel 139 in Art Unlimited. In 2009 and 2010, her works were shown in succession in Site Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Musée des Abattoirs in Toulouse, and the Boghossian Foundation in Brussels. The installation *She's my country* was acquired by the Musée des Abattoirs in Toulouse in 2011, and her work has been presented at the Yerba Buena Art Centre in San Francisco, at the San Jose Museum of Art in California, the Tel Aviv Art Museum in Israel, the Yokohama Biennial in Japan, and the Musée Guimet in Paris, which devoted a solo show to her in 2011 on the occasion of the exhibition *Chimères de l'Inde et de l'Occident*. In 2012, she participated in the exhibition India Today, in the Arken Museum, in Denmark, and will be represented at the 7th Asia-Pacific Triennial in Brisbane, Australia in 2013.

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Biography

Born in 1963 in Calcutta, India. Lives and works in New York, USA.

Solo exhibition (selection)

- 2011** Musée Guimet, *Chimères de l'Inde et de l'Occident*, Paris
Galerie Nathalie Obadia, *Imagining the other half of the world from here*, Paris
- 2010** *Without face: Cultivating the foreign*, Armory Show, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, New York
- 2009** *Look into my eyes...* Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Brussel
- 2008** Art Unlimited, Galerie Obadia, Paris, Art Basel 39, Basel, Switzerland
- 2007** *The Wilderness Within*, Galerie Volker Diehl, Berlin
Shcontemporary, solo show Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Shanghai
Foreign Fruit, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris

Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2013** Asia Pacific 7th Triennial Exhibition, Queensland Art Gallery, Australia
- 2012** India Today, Arken Museum, Denmark
Misunderstood, Noga Gallery of contemporary art, Tel Aviv
- 2011** The Matter Within : New Contemporary Art of India, Yerba Buena Art Center, San Francisco
- 2010** Devi Foundation, Delhi, India
Fantasmagoria, le monde mythique, Les Abattoirs, Toulouse
The road of marvels, path of elegance, Boghossian Foundation, Villa Empain, Brussels
- 2008** *Indian Focus*, Espace Claude Berri, Paris
Drawings from the Collection Florence et Daniel Guerlain, Ambassade de France, New York
- 2006** Frieze Art fair 2006, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, London
- 2005** *Greater New York Show*, PS1/Moma, curated by Klaus Biesenbach and staff,
w/catalog (essay by Sarah Keesler), Queens, New York
- 2003** *Yankee Remix, Artists Take on New England Massachusetts*, Museum of Modern Art,
curated by Laura Heon, North Adams, Massachusetts
5 x 5 Contemporary Art on Contemporary Artists, curated by Shamim Momin,
w/catalog, Whitney Museum of American Art, Phillip Morris Space, New York
- 2000** Whitney Museum of American Art, Whitney Biennial 2000, w/catalog, New York

Galerie Nathalie Obadia - Paris

Ramin Haerizadeh (Galerie I)
... But I prefer dogs with uncropped tails
13 September – 20 October 2012

Sarkis (Galerie II)
Aura d'après Vaudou
13 September – 13 October 2012

Fairs

FIAC
18 – 21 October 2012

Hors les murs

Joana Vasconcelos
Château de Versailles
Until 30 September 2012

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