

1956, Bangalore, India. Studied sculpture at the Faculty of Fine Arts, MS University, Baroda.

Pushpamala. N



Phantom Lady or Kismet, 1996-98

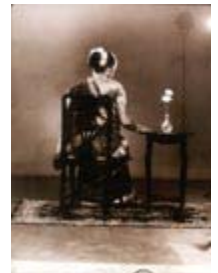
N. Rajyalakshmi, Chief Reporter of Ideal Times, interviews artist Pushpamala N

NR: Miss Pushpamala, for the last few years you have been getting photographs taken of yourself and exhibiting them. Are you a narcissist?

PN: No, I am a humourist! (laughs). Bhupen Khakhar in an early 1972 catalogue had photographs of himself posing as James Bond, Mr. Universe, and a Man with a Headache - it was delightful! In fact it was turning artistic narcissism on its head! I always felt it was a lost moment in Indian art because nobody really followed it up...

NR: But Madam, what is the purpose of this?

PN: The first work in which I performed, 'Phantom Lady or Kismet' was a photo-romance set in Bombay, about a Masked Adventurer and her search for her lost twin sister separated in childhood, who has now become a part of the underground mafia. It was shot like a thriller using real locations, with typical scenes and characters. Bombay has a place in the Indian imagination as the Great Modern Metropolis - a place of great opportunities and freedom but also of decadence and cruelty. It was a homage to the city as a centre of theatre and film, as the producer of modern fantasies. When I become the protagonist, I put myself into various kinds of narratives: one of them is my own story...



Bombay Photo Studio 2001



'Sunhere Sapne' 1998

Selected Exhibitions: 1994: Excavations, solo show of sculpture, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai. 1995: 100 Years of NGMA, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi. Sculpture 95, Gallery Espace, New Delhi. Johannesburg Biennale, South Africa. Postcards for Gandhi, Sahmat, 6 Indian cities. 1996: Shilpayan, Contemporary Indian Sculpture, NGMA, New Delhi. The New South, London, UK. Fire and Life, Australia-India Residency [1996-97] 1997: Telling Tales. Bath Festival Trust, UK and British Council, New Delhi. 1998: Phantom Lady or Kismet, a photoromance. solo show, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai and the Artist's Studio, Bangalore, The Presence of the Past. British Council, Mumbai Khoj International Workshop, Modinagar 1999: Curated an exhibition of large site-specific works, Sthala Puranagalu, in Bangalore, Art from India, Patricia Correia Gallery, Los Angeles Biennale, USA; 2000: Open Circle International Workshop, Mumbai; 2001: Century City, Tate Modern, London, UK; Golden Dreams, photographs, solo show, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai; Moving Ideas, Hoopoe Curatorial, Canada; Khoj International Residency, New Dehi