

ArtAsiaPacific

TODAY'S ART FROM TOMORROW'S WORLD

NO. 51 WINTER 2007 AU \$15.95 CA \$20 EU €15 GB £9.50 HK \$90 JP ¥1780 KR ₩12500 NZ \$15.95 SG \$20 US \$12 WWW.AAPMAG.COM

ARTISTS ON SPIRITUALITY

is inspired by *ArtAsiaPacific's* ARTISTS ON ART series of talks at the Rubin Museum of Art (RMA) in New York, which specializes in art from the Himalayas. Since its inception, the RMA has sought to demonstrate the connections between Himalayan art and contemporary sensibilities. ARTISTS ON ART invites a broad spectrum of contemporary artists to respond spontaneously to the art on display through informal guided tours in the museum galleries. The tours often take on a workshop-like quality, and as the program progressed we found that we had developed a community of adventurous, inquisitive artists and a new, enthusiastic art audience.

We wanted to share this experience with our readers, and thought about ways to do it. The participating artists, few of whom had any prior knowledge of Himalayan art, were able to look at mandalas, allegorical paintings and votive sculptures from unexpected perspectives, relating them to poster design, early film techniques, abstract painting, turntablism and hair fetishes, among other topics. Their varied, unpredictable responses suggest that artists today are thinking deeply about spirituality and the way people connect to each other and to forces beyond our immediate control or understanding. So we decided to approach the ARTISTS ON ART participants, as well as other artists we admire, with a simple question: "What does spirituality mean to you?"

— THE EDITORS

Right ■ THE 62—THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE IN SYMBOLIC FORMS, CULMINATING IN THE CRUCIFIXION OF JOB AT THE AGE OF 29 1/2 (3 1/2 YEARS EARLY) OR RIGHT ON TIME (2006), Special design for ArtAsiaPacific's ARTISTS ON SPIRITUALITY.



MITHU SEN

Spirituality is “unbelonging,” something that always provokes but never gets caught. It is such a great erotic feeling!! But it is not. No need to go to the Himalayas to discover it, no need to meditate for ages behind the tree either. I make my own dictionary with my own meanings. I keep it secretly in a corner and infect others with it, those dying to find that unreachable “spirituality” beyond the world, beyond life. They can come and find how easy the term is, how closely it is attached to our lives. Spirituality is love, and loving (everybody does so), sharing (when making love) and not sharing (when masturbating). Spirituality is not unreachable. It is like a fly...sorry, a butterfly.

■ **UNTITLED (REF MS026)** (2006), Mixed media on paper, 27 1/2" x 20". Courtesy Bose Pacia, New York