

# Land

## Origin:thereafter

An Exhibition of Painting, Sculpture, Digital Print, Audio, Graphic Novel and Installation

### Participating Artists:

Tushar Joag  
Sharmila Samant  
Subba Ghosh  
Shukla Sawant  
Sheersha Mukherjee  
Shrabani Roy  
Mahajabin Majumdar  
Moumita Das  
Aditi Raman  
Tanvi Jain  
Stefan Roemer  
Ranjani Ramachandran  
Sanchayan Ghosh  
Joanna Rajkowska  
Alex Teplish

Shrabani Roy, Origin, Installation, 2015.



Date: 14th January-24th January 2016  
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Daily  
(except Sundays)  
Venue: Art Konsult Gallery  
22, A, Ground Floor  
Hauz Khaz Village  
New Delhi-110016

Curated By **Amit Mukhopadhyay**

# A Vocal Dialogue with Wagner's 'Faust Overture'<sup>1</sup>

Ranjani Ramachandran

**Wilhelm Richard Wagner** (22 May 1813 – 13 February 1883) was a German Composer, theatre Director, Conductor who is primarily known for his operas. He also wrote a few independent pieces which came under the category of Non-operatic music.

Hitler was an admirer of Wagner's music though it can be conjectured that this was more so because he identified with Wagner because of his anti-Semitic and highly controversial writings on the Jews. For, "Hitler's interest in music was more of a pose to meet his neurotic need for compensation than a general interest in music as an end in itself. Music was more of a propagandist tool for supporting his rise to power, his position as chancellor and his later image as a warlord."<sup>2</sup> Despite his anti-Jew literature, Wagner had many Jewish admirers and friends.

My Conversations.....

As a vocalist specialized in Hindustani (North Indian) classical music, I explore my space through different melodic progressions in specific *ragas* or musical modes.

Faust is a tragic play by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe written between 1806 (part1) and 1831 (part 2). Richard Wagner composed the score inspired by this play. The musical score was written in 1855 (first written between 1840 and later re-written). The work, in itself, is a picture of the restlessness of the soul, its aspirations, and its struggles with destiny.

I have attempted to juxtapose the symphonic piece by Wagner with my responses to the experience, through the medium of voice based on the Hindustani classical music idiom. This piece comprises of a collage of a few ragas (roughly translated as melodic modes). I have intervened with melodic phrases of different ragas since the musical score (of Wagner) in itself, is an amalgamation of different moods. The phrases used are based on ragas like Harikauns, Todi, Shree and Bhairavi, all of which evoke a sense of pathos, restlessness, forcefulness and sometimes also tranquility.

**Duration of the piece:** 12.48 minutes

**Credits:**

Faust Overture (original Score): Wilhelm Richard Wagner  
Editing and mixing: Sanchayan Ghosh

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<sup>1</sup> Overture in music, is the term originally applied to the instrumental introduction to an opera. By later 19<sup>th</sup> Century it was used to refer to independent, self-existing instrumental, programmatic works.

<sup>2</sup> "Adolf Hitler: A Psychological interpretation of his views on architecture, Art and music" by Sherree Ownes Zalampas