

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
SheershaMukherjee
Shrabani Roy
Mahajabin Majumdar
Moumita Das
Aditi Raman
Tanvi Jain
Stefan Roemer
Ranjani Ramachandran
Sanchayan Ghosh
Joanna Rajkowska
Alex Teplish

Curated By **Amit Mukhopadhyay**

Shrabani Roy, Origin, Installation, 2015.


ART KONSULT

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

A Vocal Dialogue with Wagner's 'Faust Overture'¹

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."² 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

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

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