

# listings

dekko

Variety

art

# TIME AFTER TIME



Monali Meher's art is an attempt at trapping the 'moment'. This requires red wool, cheese graters and many other bewitching tricks

VISHWAS KULKARNI

There is an entire series of domestic objects wrapped in red wool in your current show.

Yes, ever since I started living between India and Holland, I discovered that there are a lot of objects that I barely use anymore. In a sense I am attempting to trap the history, to wrap the time I spent with them. I have even managed to wrap two decommissioned answering machines with red wool. In transforming them, the time I spent with them is trapped.



The image of you lying down on a heap of soil is singularly disturbing.

Strange that you say that. To me, it is rather soothing. *Terra* is me suspended between two heaps of soil, at the head and at the foot. Since I have been playing with the migration of objects for a while, this seems an appropriate performance

art piece. I carry the soil with me and it becomes part of my physicality, my movement. My position keeps changing in the world, and in attaching sometimes as firm as soil (the earth) to this movement, I bring attention to how the ephemeral is entrenched in our lives, the time we spend here.

The photograph of you atop a decrepit truck. What's that about? It's part of a prison in Turkey where they host an art show each year. I am standing atop an object that you would expect to move, but I won't, being inside a prison compound. So while I, draped in a sarong, am seen from a lower perspective (almost like a prisoner would see out the sky), there is yet another contrast aside from that of motion. I have a perspective that is invisible to the viewer, I am looking beyond the prison wall but the viewer cannot see this perspective.

So you pretty much use any place and create a moment out of it. Yes, these works are testimony to how time can be trapped despite the fleeting moment.

What is your performance here going to be about?

Only time will tell. To give you a gist, it is my reaction to the Nov 26 terror attacks in Mumbai.

**Departed, Assembled, Wrapped, Captured: Time opens at Project 88 on Oct 1. In Determination II will be performed by Meher at Gallery Maskara on Oct 6 from 6 pm onwards**