



'PRATHAMA KAUNTEYA', A DANCE AND THEATRE PRODUCTION, AT EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE, NCPA TODAY, 7 PM ONWARDS

MumbaiMirror 44

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011

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Gland Opera

Shine Shivan uses deer feces, animal bones and quail eggs to ruminate on the stuff between your legs



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In his second solo in Mumbai, Faridabad-based artist Shine Shivan returns to the thorny subject of a peculiar sexuality — psychologically repressed and organically unleashed — using motifs that best suit the theme: nature. Stuffed roosters, preserved with a knack for taxidermy that would do Norman Bates proud, are unleashed in an imagined homosexual orgy, starring cocks; quail eggs and the gnarled branches of a babul tree become symbolic of testicles guarded by a viciously protective ecosystem; a vaginally-shaped boat is eviscerated of ox bones to represent a cycle of birth and death; and deer droppings glisten against a wall like malevolent black pebbles to elucidate the appeal and repulsion inherent in nature.

To start with, *Cock Dump* is literally cocks

on a table. These symbols of masculinity are splayed atop a dining table in "an orgiastic frenzy" as the introductory write-up puts it. To complement these roosters and their obvious phallic reference an installation titled *Suck Spit* ruminates on the inaccessibility of the scrotum — for some at least. Numerous quail eggs, whose ingredients have literally been sucked out, have been stuck together and perched between the branches of a babul tree. *Suck Spit* embodies, like much of the artist's work, the appeal and dangers of the reproductive machinery.

The Passage uses a boat to replicate the convex of the vagina; a rattle of bones cascades out of it, life and death embodied in a macabre still life. Much of Shivan's work could be too visceral for squeamish audiences. But there is dexterity with material that makes *Suck Spit* special, like an opera of carnal delirium, or perhaps even the flowering of a mofussil school of sexuality that should have a place in our discourse.



Suck Spit by Shine Shivan at Gallery Maskara, 6/7, 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba Tel: 22023056