

LOVE OF SAFFRON- NEGOTIATING SACREDNESS

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Revisiting Love, Fear and Hatred

Saffron has been always my favorite color, the color of Vigor, Energy and Strength. The color which is in our daily life connected with spirituality and purity. My obsession with this color is from much before even before where I could understand the deeper meaning and importance of this color in my country, in religious belief and politics. For me this color always meant pure energy and warmth, one could feel under it. From my childhood I never knew anything which can be related to fear uneasiness or insecurities, death /destruction. The color always meant peace, spirituality, pure energy and color related to path of higher enlightenment. This color has also occurred in my previous work titled Saffron Border, after 2002 communal riots in Gujarat, India, from that time onwards this color has played different role in my mind and in the minds of people, in the form of mass hysteria, synonym of fear /insecurities. If I could directly relate it to my personal love to this color, today I could say that the angel from dream with the saffron wings lost it wings in these riots. The perception has somewhat subdued and distracted the pure love in turn has started dominating the other side of the colour Fear and Hatred. I still don't understand how and why!

Today after long suddenly this color again resurfaced due to growing incidences like communal threats and killing of people and community in common. The color has become symbol of fear in my country, the color of spirituality has become color of fear, and gradual politicization of this color has opened the floodgate in my country. Proposed performance is representing my identity and culture but also my current state of mind due to socio-political conditions prevailing in my country. As an artist's I do react to these things in more passive way not in political way my love for saffron should not be affected by this but still it is and the very state of mind of flux there is war inside my mind love hate relationship I want the love of color to win, I would like to bring the dichotomy of both love & hate spirituality and materiality, the clash of this extremes will become my act. Through my performance I am going to negotiate the idea of sacredness of color now and before. Present and past, love and hate. Oscillating psychological tension between love /sacredness/ pure and hate/impure /soiled of sacredness of saffron. The performance will try to map the paradigm shift of the power of saffron map the psychological tension created in this fluctuation of through body/ power and ritual of power/lover of saffron.

The performance will become a process to bring these clashes in space. The mind lab where flickering thought of saffron lingers this process will come out through performance. When this color resurfaced again in my mind it also brought back the all thought which I had shared during my first performance titled '**Saffron Border**'. The fear, insecurities and growing through the traumatic experience of staying in my room enclosed during curfew and next year seeing hundreds of police patrolling in sensitive area and fear and insecurity doubling while passing the sensitive area. The same question what a common person like me will do if someone attacks. Why history keep on repeating again and again.

Why the wings of angel are cut? The audio will be shared which is about my love of saffron. For this event I have chosen this particular performance since it also represent my identity and state of self at this moment justifying my existence in this time not something which represent outside me. For me although the same subject is re approached I would like to bring in present context the duality of love/ hate.



Dimple B Shah- Unfolding Ephemeral Traces-2016 Tanti Dhatri Festival
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