



Absent Bodies Present Selves

Sheba Chhachhi, Parul Dave Mukherji and Mithu Sen in conversation with Gayatri Sinha

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

cordially invites you for a panel discussion

Absent Bodies Present Selves

featuring

Sheba Chhachhi, Parul Dave Mukherji and Mithu Sen

in conversation with

Gayatri Sinha

Date

11 March 2013

Time

5.30 p. m.

Venue

Lecture Hall, 11, Mansingh Road,
New Delhi – 110 001

RSVP 23388123

The spirit of a gradually receding self-consciousness seems to touch the generation of (women) artists who came into prominence in the 1990s. Issues of body, gender and feminist contexts, the bedrock of their early practice have merged and slipped into new amalgams, ideas and a testing of materials. Are we then confronted with a period of intense personal and aesthetic enquiry, of practices that bear little reference to one another?

Absent Bodies Present Selves invites two artists who have dealt definitively with the body as presence, as part and as absence, together with an art historian and cultural theorist. The discussion would focus on how the artists' strategies of evoking the domains of an engendered discourse are critical to the shaping of a committed and evolving feminist art practice.

- A long-time chronicler of the women's movement in India, as both photographer and activist, **Sheba Chhachhi**, moved from documentary practice in the early 90's to developing collaborative, staged photographic portraits that are predicated on building a relationship with her subjects, as if being an invitation to perform the self.
- The recurrent themes in the works of **Mithu Sen** revolve around gender, domesticity, sexuality, and kitsch. In her work that cut across categories, she explores the permutations of identity politics alongside the vagaries of self-perception. Her works invite viewers to play with the idea of 'self' by subconsciously applying 'my caricatures to their own lives', as it were.
- **Parul Dave-Mukherji** is professor in the Department of Visual Studies, and Dean at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She is the co-convener of the Forum on Contemporary Theory and co-editor of the *Journal of Contemporary Thought*, and is a member of the College Art Association, USA and on executive committee of International Association of Aesthetics.
- **Gayatri Sinha** is an art critic, curator and editor based in New Delhi. Her primary areas of enquiry are around the structures of gender and iconography, media, economics and social history. She has initiated Critical Collective, a forum for thinking on conceptual frames within art history and practice in contemporary India.