

Voice Recorder

Pallavi Pundir Posted online: Sun Jul 07 2013, 02:45 hrs

Mumbai : Some people do think before talking. And about talking. At the Tate Modern gallery in London, for instance, the honchos brainstormed about the finer details of speech and sound and have created an exhibition around this in collaboration with Delhi-based Khoj International Artists' Association. "It's about all modes of articulation and our ability to articulate. Who is allowed to speak? Who is heard? How is the voice used to express dissent and resistance, both in individual and collective spheres?" says Asmita Rangari of Khoj, who has curated the show titled "Word. Sound. Power" with Tate's Loren Hansi Momudu. This collaboration is a first for India and brings together eight emerging and established international artists from India and Jordan, among other countries. The exhibition will be on from July 12 to November 2 at Tate, and then travel to Khoj Studios in January.

Let's Talk

The participants of this collaborative exhibition include Jordanian artist Lawrence Abu Hamdan, French-Norwegian artist Caroline Bergvall, Danish artist Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen and Indian artists such as Amar Kanwar, Anjali Monteiro, KP Jayasankar, Pallavi Paul and Mithu Sen.

Poetic Protest

While filmmaker Amar Kanwar's earlier work *A Night of Prophecy* (2002) looks at political turmoil articulated through songs and poetry, selected excerpts from Anjali Monteiro and KP Jayasankar's work *Saacha* (The Loom, 2001) looks at Dalit poet Narayan Surve's poetry as an alternative voice of political representation. Pallavi Paul presents her poetry through *Nayi Kheti* (2013) and *ShabdKosh* (2013), where she holds metaphysical conversations with the ghosts of poets from different points of history.

Surround Sound

Danish artist Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen's films *Arise* and *KEST* look at the lives of four young men living in the local communities around Tate Modern and Khoj, and find a common culture of hip hop, dance, rap and poetry. "There is a desire to hear the voices that surround us and attune to a generation who, continents apart, are negotiating their position and finding ways to be heard," says Rangari.

Dalit Dialogues

Anand Patwardhan's films will be screened as a part of the retrospective at Tate Modern. A special segment will screen *Jai Bheem Comrade*, one of his recent films, which focuses on the voices of Dalit poets and activists through street songs, music and poetry.