

## Press Kit



20e édition du Festival Accès Asie  
Du 1er au 24 mai 2015  
[www.accesasie.com](http://www.accesasie.com)

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## VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITIONS

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**MAY 9 to JUNE 14, 2015**

**CHECKPOINTS  
&  
THE STATE OF ORIGIN: REEL & IMAGINED**

Maison de la Culture de Côte-des-Neiges  
5290, Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges, Montréal, Québec, H3T 1Y2



Kakim Goh  
Commissaire | Curator  
Festival Accès Asie  
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## **Checkpoints & The State of Origin: REEL & IMAGINED**

### **Vernissage**

Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

### **Meet with the Artists**

Sunday, May 17, 2015 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

### **Exhibitions**

Both exhibitions run from May 9 to June 14, 2015

Maison de la Culture de Côte-des-Neiges, Gallery 1 & 2  
5290, Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges, Montréal, QC, H3T 1Y2  
(Côte-des-Neiges metro station)

### **Free admission**

From **May 9<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup> 2015**, Festival Accès Asie, in collaboration with la Maison de la Culture de Côte-des-Neiges, proudly presents two exhibitions: “Checkpoints” and “The State of Origin: REEL & IMAGINED”. Occupying two galleries on two floors, the exhibitions feature eight contemporary visual and performance artists originating from China, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan, Germany, India and Iran.

In the first gallery, the two-person exhibition, “Checkpoints”, brings together a selection of new photography, video, and installation works by Montreal-based artists Hua Jin (b. China) and Pavitra Wickramasinghe (b. Sri Lanka). Curated by Kakim Goh, the show explores the theme of “checkpoint” here defined as a “place along a road, or border, where travelers are stopped for inspection before being allowed to continue.”

In the second gallery, “The State of Origin: REEL & IMAGINED” is an international group exhibition by the Canadian-based collective THE DIGITAL SILK ROUTE ([www.thedigitalsilkroute.com](http://www.thedigitalsilkroute.com)) presenting video, installation and photography works by Khadija Baker (Syria/Canada), Ting-Ting Cheng (Taiwan/UK), Verena Kyselka (Germany), Bindu Mehra (India/Canada), Veer Munshi (India) and Raha Rastifard (Iran/Sweden). Curated by Kakim Goh and Bindu Mehra, the show explores the transformational impact of migration, movement and globalization on individuals and societies through art.

The public is invited to attend the opening cocktail of the exhibitions on Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Audiences will have the opportunity to meet and discuss with the artists and curators of the exhibitions on Sunday, May 17, 2015, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Both exhibitions run from May 9 to June 14, 2015

For information, contact:

Curator | Kakim Goh | (514) 270-6913 | [commissaire.artsvisuels@accesasie.com](mailto:commissaire.artsvisuels@accesasie.com)

# CHECKPOINTS

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## Photography, video & installation



Hua Jin, *Mirage*, photo, C-print, 150 x 120 inches, 2014

**Curator**  
**Kakim Goh**

**Artists**  
**Hua Jin (Canada / Montréal)**  
**Pavitra Wickramasinghe (Sri Lanka / Montréal)**





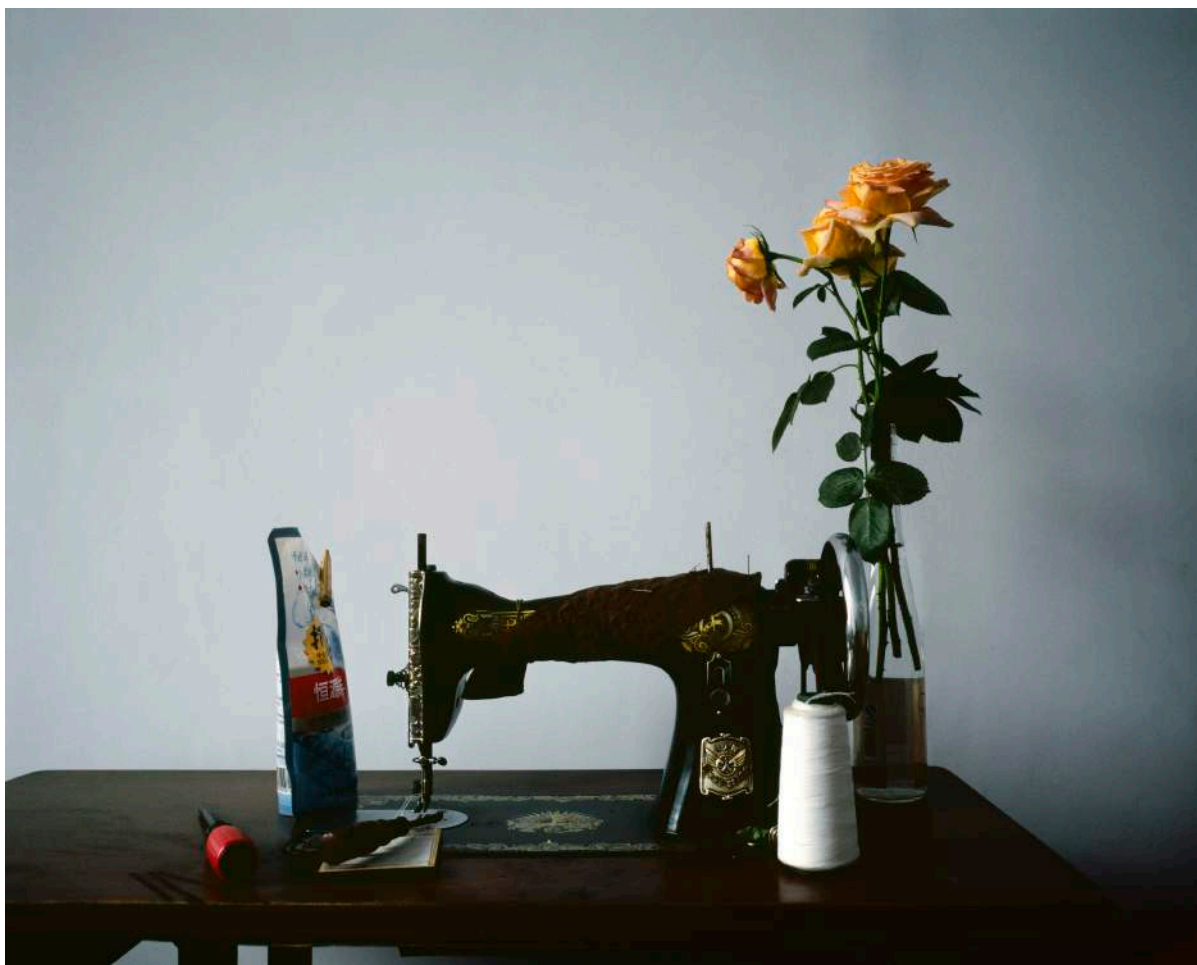
**Hua Jin**

My Big Family (series)

Photo

21 x 26 inches (each)

2010 - present



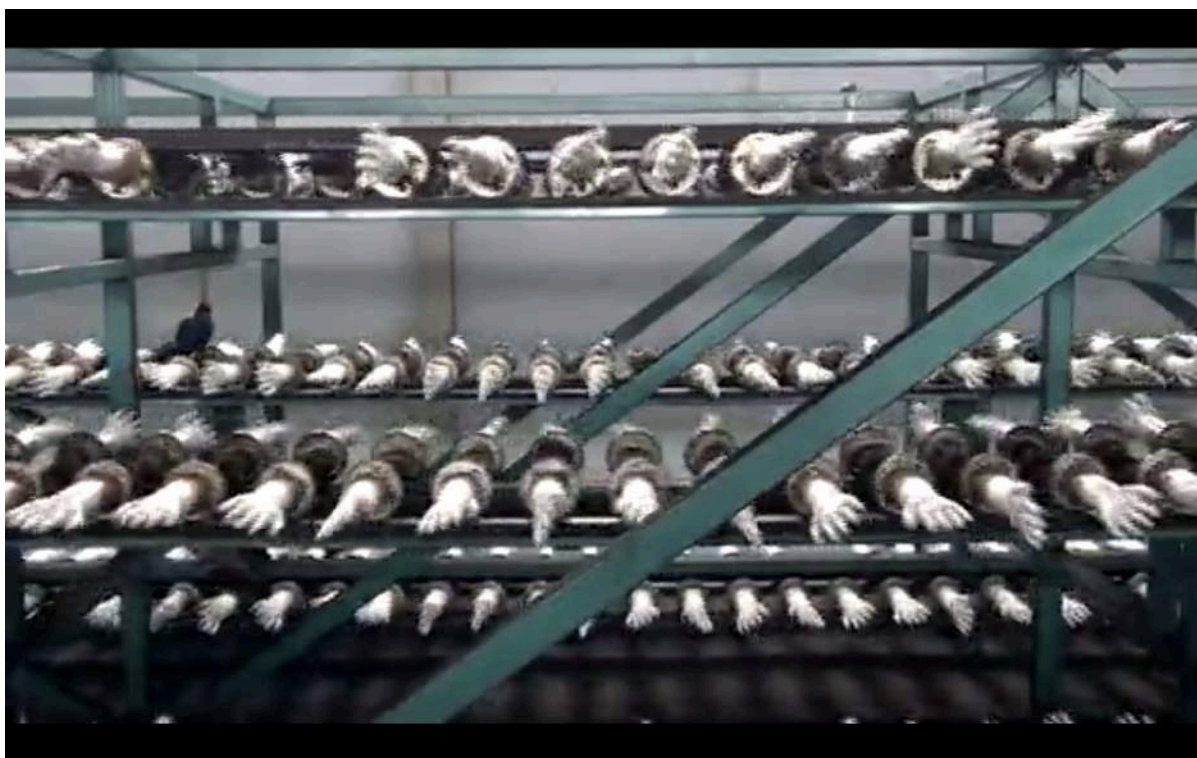
**Hua Jin**

My Big Family (series)

Photo

21 x 26 inches (each)

2010 - present



**Hua Jin**  
My Big Family - Glove Factory  
Video still  
2010



**Pavitra Wickramasinghe**  
Last Syllable of Time  
Video still  
2012





**Pavitra Wickramasinghe**

*Line Poem - Alchemy of Light #2* (series of 8)

Laser-cut paper pads, wood frame

24 cm x 27 cm x 5 cm (each)

2013

Image: *In the making*. Illingworth Kerr Gallery, ACAD, Calgary, Canada  
January 16 to March 1, 2014. Photo: Ward Bastian





**Pavitra Wickramasinghe**

*Line Poem - Alchemy of Light #2* (series of 8)

Laser-cut paper pads, wood frame

24 cm x 27 cm x 5 cm (each)

2013

Image: *In the making*. Illingworth Kerr Gallery, ACAD, Calgary, Canada  
January 16 to March 1, 2014. Photo: Ward Bastian

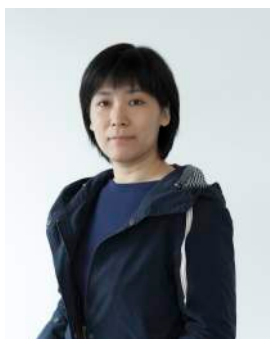


Photo © Kiran Ambwani

### **Kakim Goh - curator**

**Born in Singapore; lives in Montréal**  
[www.kakimgoh.com](http://www.kakimgoh.com)

Kakim Goh is the Curator of the Visual Arts Program and Vice-President of the Board of Directors at Festival Accès Asie. He holds a BFA in Painting and Drawing from Concordia University. As a visual artist who creates interdisciplinary painting, performance and video installations, Kakim has been exhibiting in Mexico and Quebec since 1993, most notably at MAI, the OBORO New Media Laboratory and la Maison de la Culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal.



### **Hua Jin - artist**

**Born in Hebei, China; lives in Montréal**  
[www.phoebejin.com](http://www.phoebejin.com)

Hua Jin is a photography, installation and video artist whose works are consistent with the use of landscape imagery and the color of black and white to represent different subjects in relation to Oriental philosophies. Having received a BFA from Emily Carr (ECUAD), Hua is currently completing an MFA in Studio Arts at Concordia University. Hua has exhibited in Canada, USA, China, and the Netherlands. Her works are included in the public collection of Museum of Contemporary Art in Shanghai.



Photo © Elisabeth Belliveau

### **Pavitra Wickramasinghe - artist**

**Born in Colombo, Sri Lanka; lives in Montréal**  
[www.pavitraw.com](http://www.pavitraw.com)

Pavitra Wickramasinghe is a multidisciplinary artist whose work explores new ways of conceptualizing the moving image and conventions of seeing. A graduate of Concordia University and the Alberta College of Art and Design, she is the recipient of the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists and The Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowship in Contemporary Art. Her work has been exhibited in Canada, France, South Korea, Finland, Germany, Spain and Denmark.

# THE DIGITAL SILK ROUTE

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## The State of Origin: REEL & IMAGINED

Video, installation & photography



Verena Kyselka, *Territory of Beauties*, video still, 2012  
Performer: Labay Yong; photographer: Verena Kyselka

### Curators

**Kakim Goh & Bindu Mehra**



**Khadija Baker (Syria / Canada)**

**Ting-Ting Cheng (Taiwan / UK)**

**Verena Kyselka (Germany)**

**Bindu Mehra (India / Canada)**

**Veer Munshi (India)**

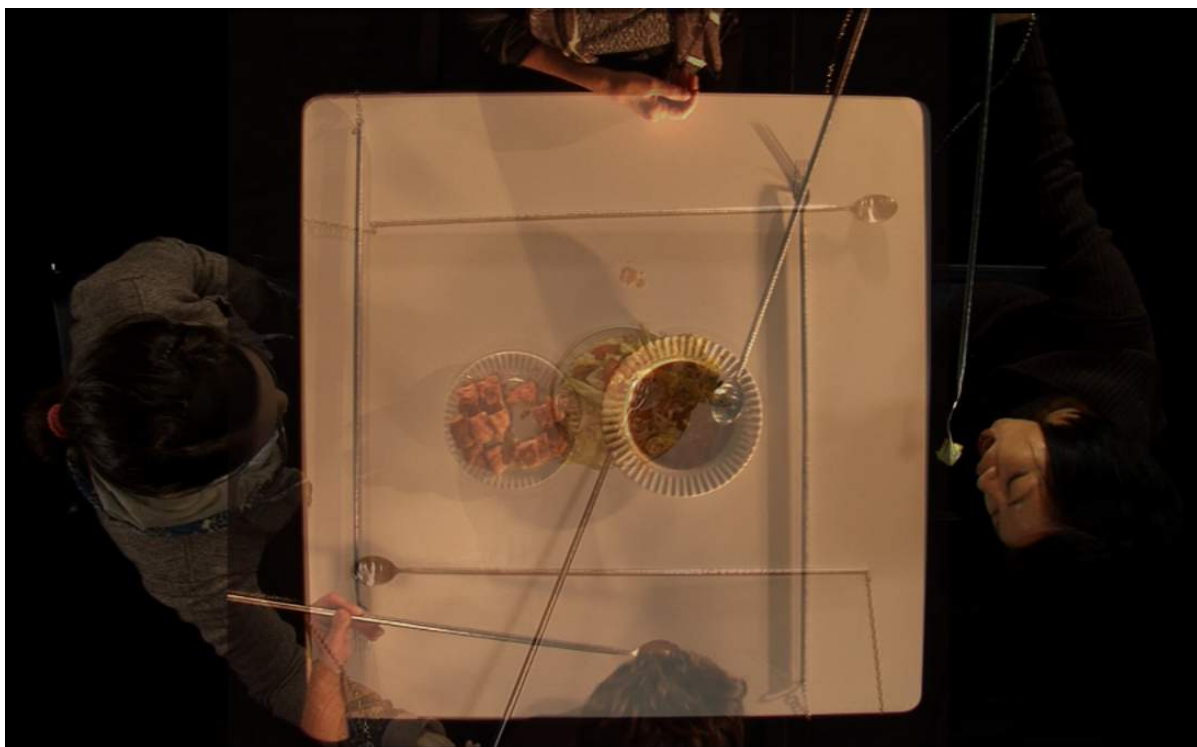
**Raha Rastifard (Iran / Sweden)**



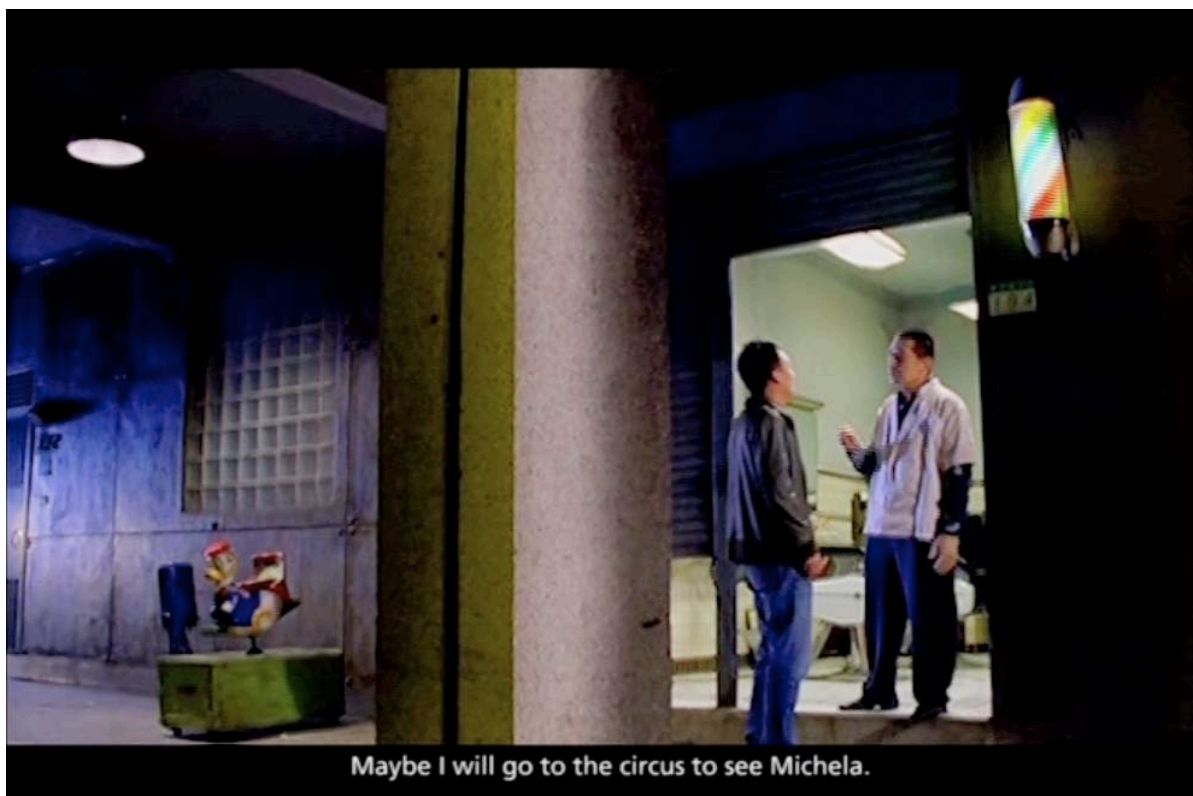


**Bindu Mehra**  
Tea and Spices  
Video still  
2013

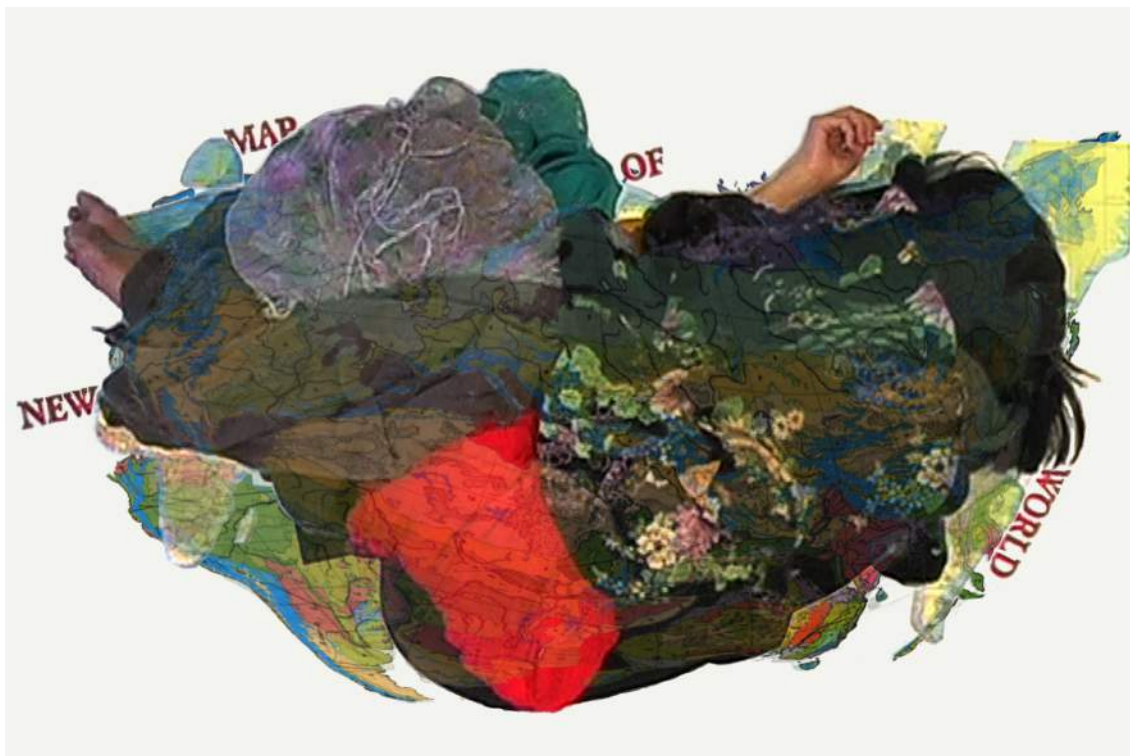




**Khadija Baker**  
First Series Encounter Chance  
Video still  
2011

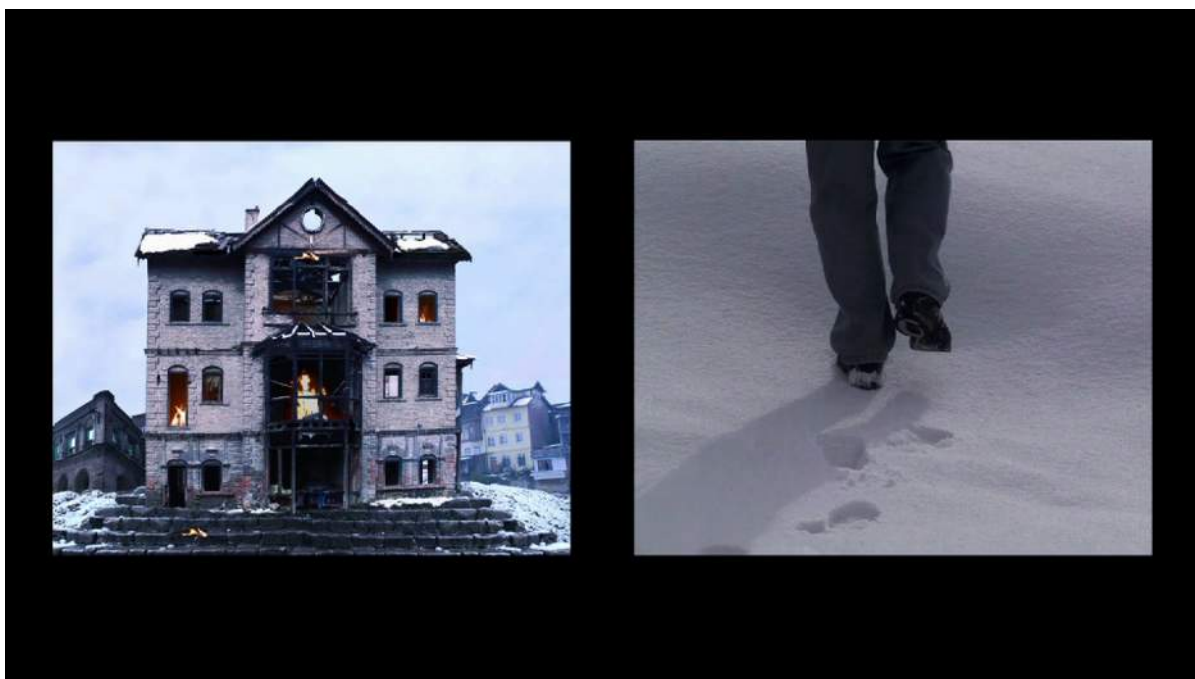


**Ting-Ting Cheng**  
Dubbing Project 1  
Video still  
2012



**Verena Kyselka**  
Territory of Beauties  
Video still  
2012

Performer: Delphine Hsini Mei  
Photographer: Verena Kyselka



**Veer Munshi**

Leaves Like Hands of Flame

Video still

2010





**Raha Rastifard**  
If It isn't Too Dark # 8  
Photo  
100 x 70 cm  
2013 - 2014



### **Bindu Mehra - curator & artist**

**Born in Delhi, India; lives in Canada**

Video and installation artist Bindu Mehra's work diversifies into drawing, painting, sculpture, video and installation that often combines evocative sound tracks and found footage. Bindu earned her MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University (USA) and MS University, Baroda (India). She has exhibited internationally at the Scope Art Fair New York (USA), Alwan for the Arts New York (USA), Blackburn Museum (UK), Chiang Mai Museum (Thailand) and the Devi Art Foundation (India).



### **Khadija Baker - artist**

**Born in Amude, Syria; lives in Montréal**  
[www.khadijabaker.com](http://www.khadijabaker.com)

Of Kurdish origin, Khadija Baker is a multidisciplinary artist who creates installations that combine video, textile and sound. Her work explores social and political themes related to persecution, displacement and memory. She holds an MFA from the University of Damascus (Syria) in addition to a BFA and MFA from Concordia University. Khadija's work has been exhibited in Montreal, Toronto, New York, London, Berlin, Marseille, New Delhi, Beirut, Damascus and the 2012 Sydney Biennale.



### **Ting-Ting Cheng - artist**

**Born in Taipei, Taiwan; lives in London, UK**  
[www.chengtingting.com](http://www.chengtingting.com)

Photography, video and sound installation artist Ting-Ting Cheng is interested in the fluctuant identities and the sensitive relationship between foreignness and locality, examining reactions to different cultures. Cheng graduated from MA Photographic Studies at University of Westminster, London. Her works have been exhibited internationally at the Taipei Fine Art Museum, Addaya Art Centre (Mallorca), London Art Fair, Foto Madrid, Tokyo Frontline, ISE Cultural Foundation (New York).



### **Verena Kyselka - artist**

**Born in Erfurt, Germany; lives in Berlin, Germany**
  
[www.verena-kyselka.de](http://www.verena-kyselka.de)

Visual, video and installation artist Verena Kyselka's work developed in the underground scene of East Germany in the late 80s. With the female artist group Exterra XX, she founded the Kunsthaus Erfurt in 1990 where she curated and worked on intercultural projects that were developed during intercultural exchanges in Eastern Europe, Taiwan, Bangladesh, India and Australia.



### **Veer Munshi - artist**

**Born in Srinagar, Kashmir, India; lives in Gurgaon, India**

Video, painting, photography and installation artist Veer Munshi acquired his BA from Kashmir University and BFA from M.S.U Baroda. He has held solo shows in India, Scotland, Australia and Geneva. He has participated in over 20 group-shows abroad and in India including the 11th Asian Art Biennale in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He is the recipient of the Junior Fellowship from the Government of India and the Research Grant Fellowship from Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.



### **Raha Rastifard - artist**

**Born in Tehran, Iran; lives in Stockholm, Sweden**
  
[www.rahastifard.com](http://www.rahastifard.com)

Raha Rastifard's autobiographical work ranges from photography to video and to installation. In her highly lyrical art, she creates digital pictures full of (trans) cultural, poetic and historical art references. Raha holds a Masters degree from the Freie University Berlin. A founder of the artists' group Artists without Borders in Iran, Raha has exhibited her work internationally in Tehran, Berlin, Bonn, London, New York City, Tokyo, New Delhi, Kabul, Stockholm, Mexico City and Shanghai.