

Ideas Travel Faster than Light

Mecklenburgh Square Garden Project
26 – 29 September 2020, 11am – 4pm

1. Amikam Toren – Chandan Gomes

Chandan Gomes' instructions to me consists of a well known Zen story (a dream), this is a "ready made" and that notion informed my approach, I use Chandan's instruction text verbatim. To that end, I deployed ready made fragments/letters which were cut out of ready made painting (while making Armchair paintings). This colourful alphabet tells the story (dream) three times, the fragments / letters are glued to six pieces of canvas, these too are leftovers . The work pretends to be three large butterflies attached to and or resting in three different spaces in the garden.

2. Anne Hardy – Sujit Mallik

There are many holes, 2020

Circular mirrors, ground and surroundings, dimensions variable

3. Calum F. Kerr – Gangan Singh

Respiratory Routes (Abbey Wood to Mecklenburgh Square), 2020

Sound Sculpture (3hrs 54m looped)

A walk in sound, 23 kilometres from Lesnes Abbey Woods in South-East London to Mecklenburgh Square. One step at a time, breathing in and out, lungs contracting and expanding, against invisible dangers.

4. David Batchelor – Achia Anzi

Coloured chalk spray paint on grass

5. International Lawns – Vaibhav Raj Shah

Leap in Two, 2010-20

Screenprint, garage door paint and International Lawns Green acrylic paint on polyethylene

6. Jo Stockham – Tapan Moharana

Tapan writes of Zero, but also of toys.

I plant circles of black tulips in the square without disturbing the soil.

I'll re-read Sadie Plant's Zeros and Ones and remember the exhibition at the Science Museum about the significance of Indian science and mathematics to world history (javascript has an origin).

The first known representation of zero was in an Indian bark painting. I use premixed paper mache purchased in New York in September 2001.

I will hang from the fig tree, occupy the space under a bush and behind a bench. With my 2m wand I will capture relationships.

7. Naomi Salaman – Charmi Gada Shah

Missing, Image–Text, 2020

Looking for something that doesn't exist. Staring at this anonymous, neglected building I knew it was very unlikely I could go out and find it – it will have been rebuilt, built over or renovated considerably since Charmi

photographed it. I could not make a scale model of this building because I was interested in where her sighting of this frontage was. The photograph she sent was of a building she saw in London in 2003 and is a link for the present work.

8. Oona Grimes & Tony Grisoni – Muskaan Singh

Etruscan moth, 2020, Made by Oona Grimes & Tony Grisoni,
Music by Jem Finer

i.phone film, 04.51 min

The silk worm moth appears as joker - quick, androgynous, playful, seductive. The lepidopterist is at first Buster Keaton-esque - a comic shape against the foliage. It is only as he draws closer, and the moth's brief life expires that we see his true monstrous nature. It is a kind of proof of "our skill against the hostile and alien forces".*

*'Reading' Virginia Woolf

9. Ruth Maclellan – Yogesh Barve

Reading aloud of *Annihilation of Caste* – an undelivered speech by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

Annihilation of Caste is by the social reformer, first minister of Law and Justice and principle author of the Constitution of India. He inspired the Dalit Buddhist movement and campaigned against discrimination against the so-called Untouchables or 'depressed classes'. He wrote the speech in 1936 but was unable to deliver it because the organisers who invited him got cold feet. He published the speech instead and it became hugely influential. Recently it has been picked up again internationally – its ideas on caste applied to race and class, in the context of the US and Britain. Arundhati Roy wrote an introduction to a new edition, piggybacking Ambedkar's book with her own, as she acknowledged. Her book provoked both acclaim and sharp criticism for a form of cultural appropriation (she has a Brahmin, i.e. high-caste, name) and shows that caste, class, and identity politics are still alive and kicking. At the moment of going to press, in response to an increase in infection rates of Covid 19 in the UK, rules have changed once more, and it is forbidden to hold social gatherings of more than six people. In order to keep people safe, we will deliver a socially distanced, fully accessible performance that is in the spirit of the original undelivered speech. After all Ambedkar found a way to share his ideas, and so will we.

Ambedkar lived in London in the early 1920s studying at LSE (not far from Mecklenburgh Square), and the house he lived in is now the Ambedkar House Museum in Primrose Hill.

10. Swapnaa Tamhane – Nilanjana Nandy

Anatomy of love and lovers through the time immemorial to love in times of corona, 2020, Plastic lace

There are many imperfections in the work that are obvious and not so obvious. They are not intentional imperfections, it's an attempt at creating perfection, but also having these parts where the hand fails the structure and process.