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Art

WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY

March 2013



Set in a cozy nook on Armenian street, Art Plural Gallery boasts a spacious arena as well as an aura of sleek sophistication. A neon orange track was fashioned around the gallery strategically, inviting guests to race their way to various art pieces put up by the enigmatic Thukral and Tagra. The pieces had hints of grandiloquence, engulfed with an overall simplicity. To one viewing the piece, the eye catches the assiduous nature of the artworks and it is almost impossible to focus on one thing. Thukral and Tagra have definitely aced the art of thought. We got a chance to interview the duo about their latest art exhibition: *Windows of Opportunity*

In your own words, who are you? What is your identity as Thukral and Tagra?

I think we were kind of sensitive enough to think around and we had that sort of visual understanding of putting things together which is probably the toughest part. That's an essential part of qualifying as an artist, that you can see what other people cannot. It starts of there. It's as simple as having safe sex. It starts from ideas at home, basic things like that.

Would you say your identity stems from ideas that you have?

I think, yes. Most probably that's the only thing.

So what do you think the main repercussion of consumer culture in India is? Well, I think it is too fast. Things are just moving too fast. Here as well or anywhere, especially with a third world country, things are moving too fast. And you certainly have to speed up to catch up. I mean, it's a little weird, the combination of two worlds.

Do you think there's enough thought put into all these changes?

Not really. I mean everybody talks about organic changes but we're not moving that way.

You put up all these shows all over the world. How similar or different would you say the reactions are?

The reactions we get are pretty interesting. We were doing this project on HIV in Sao Paolo and they were quite exciting. It depends on the culture as well. When you do the same thing in New York, they see issues in a very different angle.

How do you think our locals would react?

It will be exciting because 60% of Singapore is made up of migrants. The works we are showing are also based on migration.

Based on all the works that you've put up, is there one particular work that you're proud of?

All, really.

Along with the change of consumer culture, how do you adapt to these as artists?

We try to make a lot of contextual sense to the chosen projects. When we were young we viewed Singapore as a place for shopping.

Is the place where you portray your work very important?

Yeah, very important. We always go into the space first because it's very important for us to understand the space. We definitely visit the space personally to get a feel of what it is.

Your work is obviously very personal and political. Do you think it's possible to separate these two themes?

I don't think so. It's a very personal kind of understanding how you see things but you're always connected to the context where you have a way of viewing things through a camera lens. Of course it exists in that sort of constitutional arrangement, so I think it intervenes.

My very last question – both of you work very closely together is there any personal quirks that the other person has when it comes to work?

Well he (Thukral) loses his temper which is really good because one has to play safe and one has to fight – the good cop and bad cop. We switch places pretty often, he isn't the only one allowed to get angry. It's more of working with two different families sort of thing. We're probably more like brothers so that's how the understanding works.

Windows of Opportunity opens till 25th May 2013, Monday to Saturday 11am to 7pm.

Venue: Art Plural Gallery. 38 Armenian Street Singapore 179942

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