

ANATOMY OF SILENCE

RAKHI PESWANI

11 January – 7 March, 2013

The Guild
Art Gallery

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Anatomy of Silence

THE GUILD

January 11 – March 7, 2013

The Guild Art Gallery is delighted to present 'Anatomy of Silence', the third solo exhibition of Rakhi Peswani with The Guild, the second being at ART HK, in a solo presentation in 2011.

"The show excavates the body in the *handmade* through the now crucial trope of its displacement and near demise. The relationship between laborious *work* and a craftsman's body is explored and seen vis-a-vis the situation of the *handmade* today.

Developing further from her earlier works [*Matters under the Skin* (2011), *Intertwinings* (2009)] and a sustained engagement with the psychological dimensions of *Thinking through Craft*, these works assess the particular zones of stability and comfort, and attempt to re-present the inherent character latent within such spaces. The relationship between hand crafts and the status of the *maker* in urban society is explored in *Anatomy of Silence*.

'Silence', in its narrow sense is seen as a state of being mute or silent, an aspect that is integral to the languages of painting, sculpture and object making. The work of art, or the cultural object, in this context, holds a 'mute' relationship with the society it survives in. In this sense, object making as a form of art is essentially a language that deals with this aspect of silence and initiates a discourse from there.

"In its broader usage, *Silence* refers to the state of being in oblivion or silenced through omission or non-mention. In this sense, the show explores certain trajectories through the choices of materials and processes that become mute reminders of certain segments of our society that seem to be at neglect. Materiality becomes a quiet reminder and is juxtaposed with textual and visual quotations, bringing the critical nature of art and literature closer to the spatial field of the viewer; to locate a close relationship between process based practices and literature. Literary thought is

transported into architectural spaces, inhabiting the physical reality of the viewer. Spaces of stability and comfort- a house/home/room/bed are deconstructed and re-presented as replete with other forms of temporal and ephemeral intensities. Subtractive and additive processes are juxtaposed with spatial languages of intimacy and immersion to understand other relationships that stability and comfort ought to have. These processes hold themselves as metaphors to understand the qualities of destruction and restoration that are intrinsic to craft practices, which are otherwise seen as fixed and timeless in their skills and expressions. Fiber, fabric, literature and spatial languages become dissecting tools to disclose the reticence of the *handmade* today.” –

Rakhi Peswani.

January 2013,

Bangalore

Peswani received the Inlaks Scholarship for the UNIDEE in residence at Cittadellarte, Fondazione Pistoletto in 2006; Artists’ residency at Sanskriti Kendra, Sanskrithi Pratishthan, New Delhi in 2007 and PEERS-2003’ residency invitation from KHOJ, New Delhi. Rakhi was invited for a residency in The Hague, where she showed *Bodies / Subterrain (Eurydice & Sita)*, at Vrije Academie in 2011. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Matters Under the Skin 2011*’, Art HK – Asia One, Hong Kong, presented by The Guild, Mumbai; *Intertwinings*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi and *Sonnet for Silent Machines*, at Jehangir Nicholson Gallery and The Guild, Mumbai. Rakhi has participated in several select exhibitions including Art Stage Singapore 2011, *I think therefore graffiti...*, presented by The Guild, Mumbai; *Reverie*, Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai; *A New Vanguard: Trends in Contemporary Indian Art*, Saffronart, New York; *The Ego, The Persona, The Shadow and The Wise Old Man (or was it The Great Mother?)* by The Guild, New York; *Analytical Engine*, Bose Pacia, Kolkata and Gallery Seven Art Ltd, New Delhi. Peswani’s participation in Museum shows include - *Bring Me A Lion: An Exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art*, The Hunt Gallery, St. Louis, Missouri; *Potters in Peril*, at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai; *Generation in Transition. New Art from India* at Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland and Contemporary Art Centre, Lithuania. She is part of the upcoming show ‘Zones of Contact’ at Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, in New Delhi.

Peswani had been teaching Visual arts at the Sarojini Naidu School of Fine arts and Communication Hyderabad Central University since last eight year, She recently joined as a faculty at Srishti School of Art Design Technology in Bangalore.



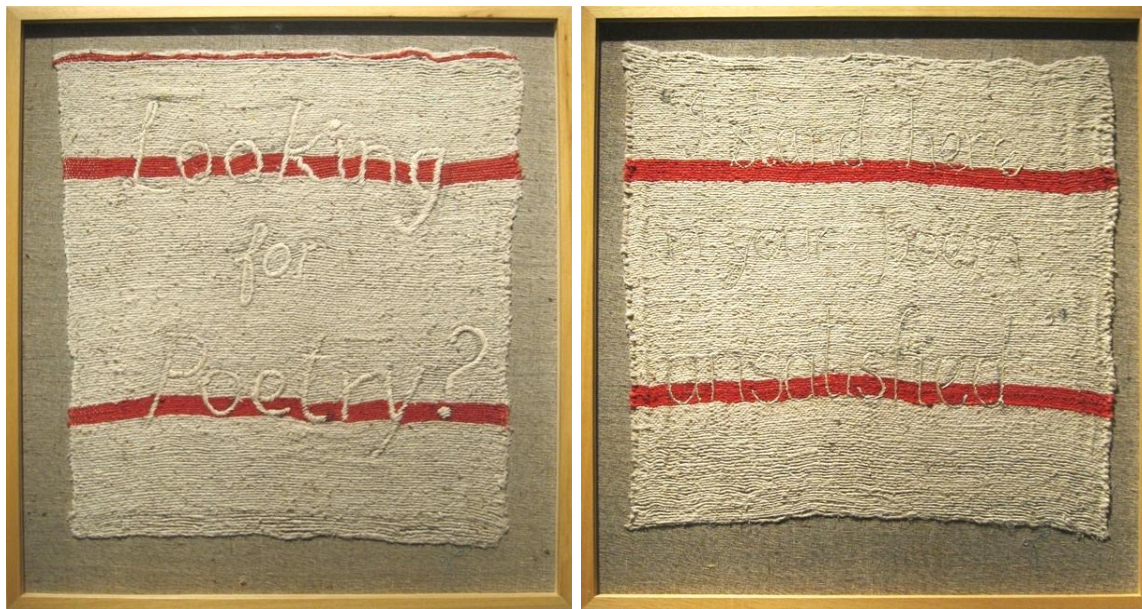
Shelter (for the Itinerant),
Jute, Iron nails, wool, hand darned organza fabric, dimensions: variable, 2012



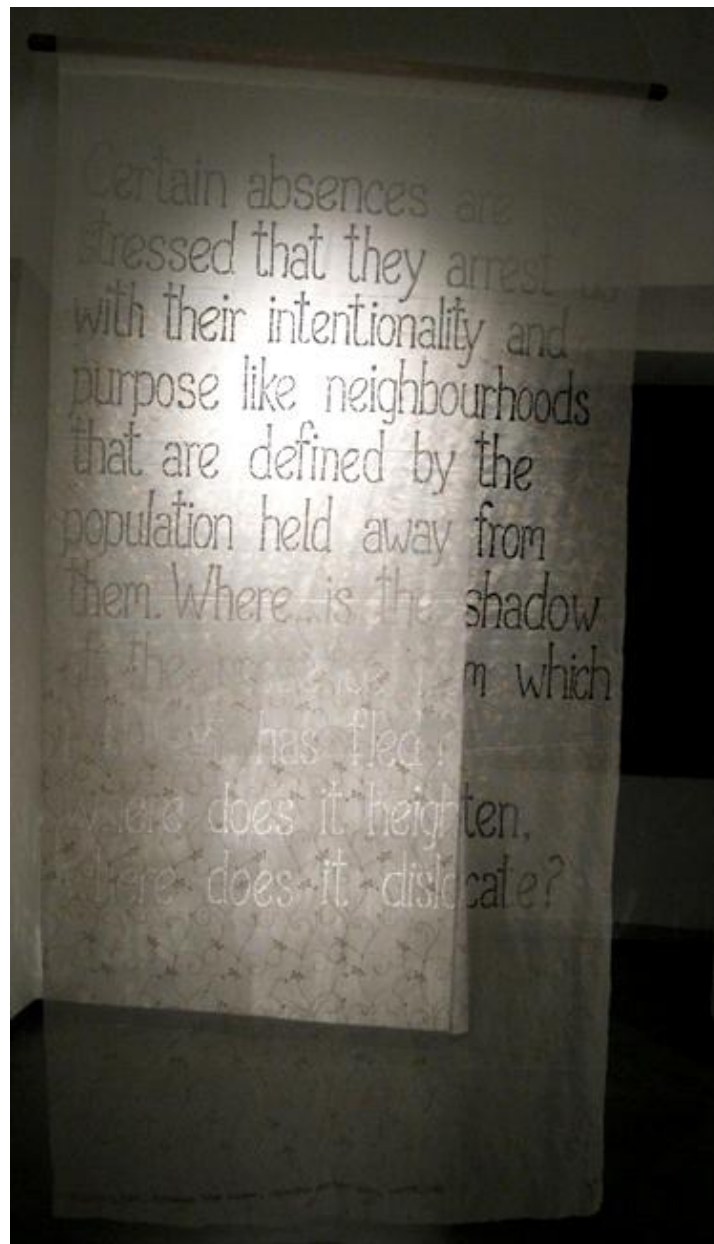
Anatomy of Silence (Shelter ii),
Jute fabric, synthetic fiber, organza with hand embroidery, 75" x 52" x 12", 2012



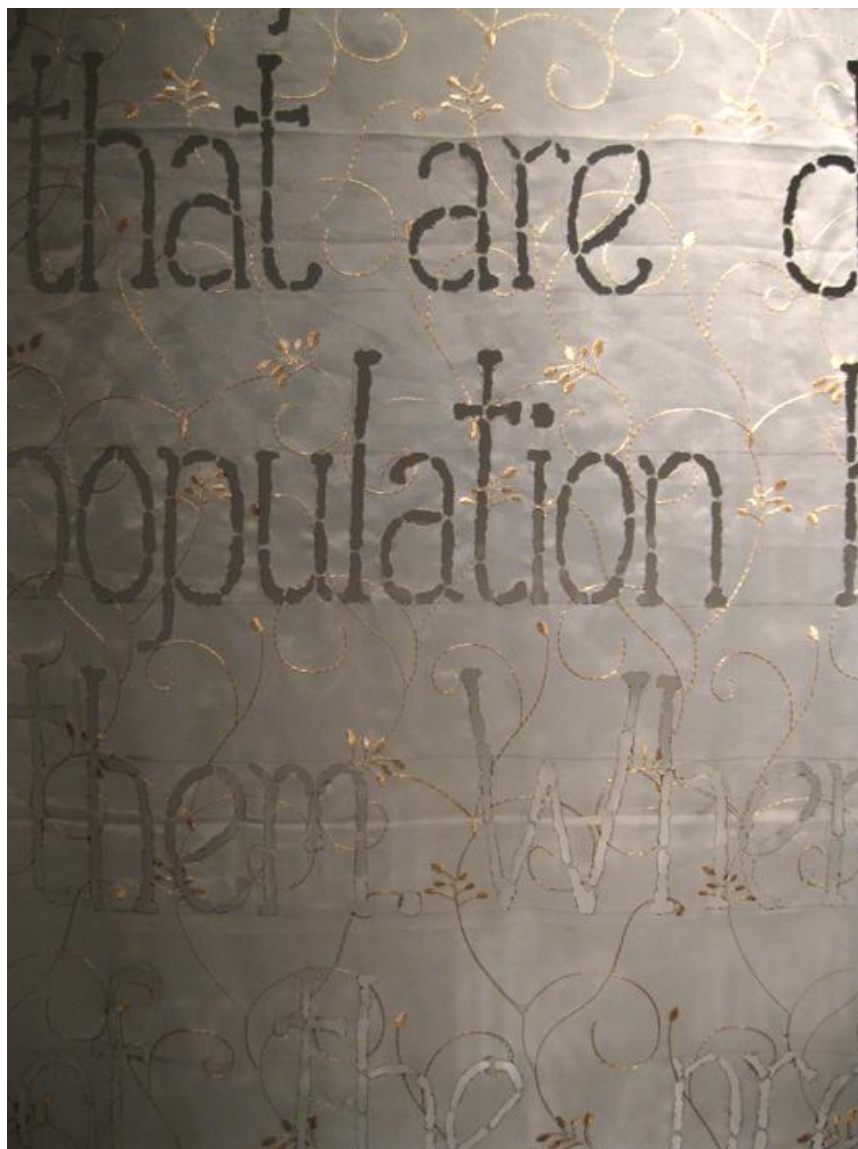
Shelter (The Craftsman's Body),
mixed media with various fibers and fabrics, dimensions: 49" x 72" x 15", 2012



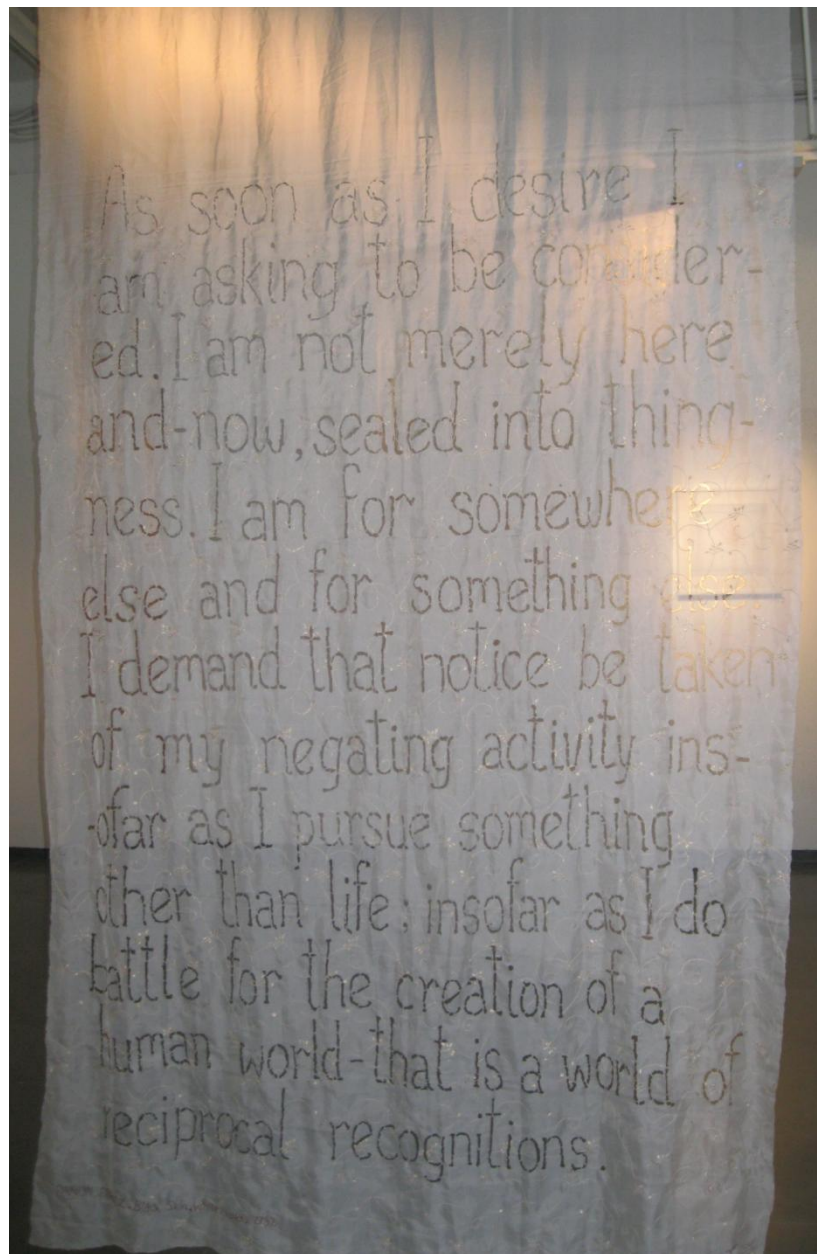
Absence as Silence,
hand embroidery on mopping cloth, 17" x 16" (each) diptych, 2012



Reinforcement for the Displaced (i),
singd polyester fabric, 96" x 60" (approx.), 2012



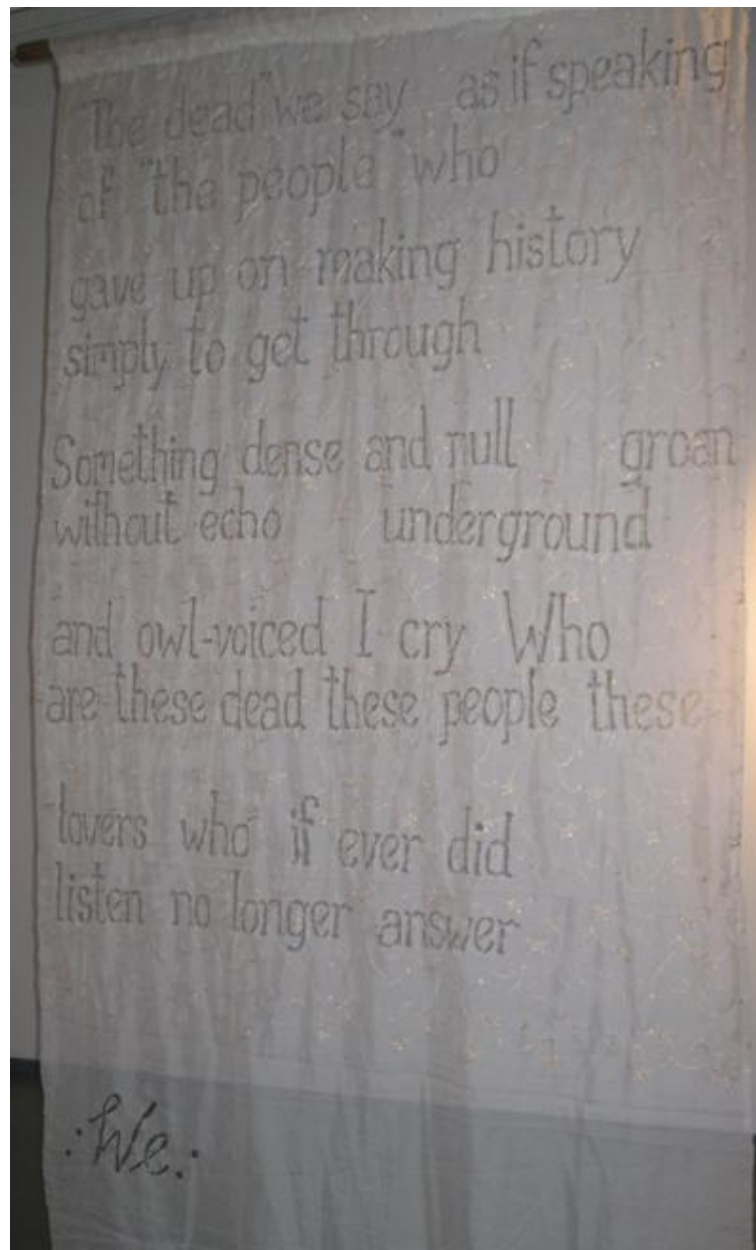
detail of *Reinforcement for the Displaced* (i)



Reinforcement for the Displaced (ii),
singed polyester fabric, 96" x 60" (approx.), 2012

and owl-voiced I cry
are these dead these people
lovers who if ever did
listen no longer answer

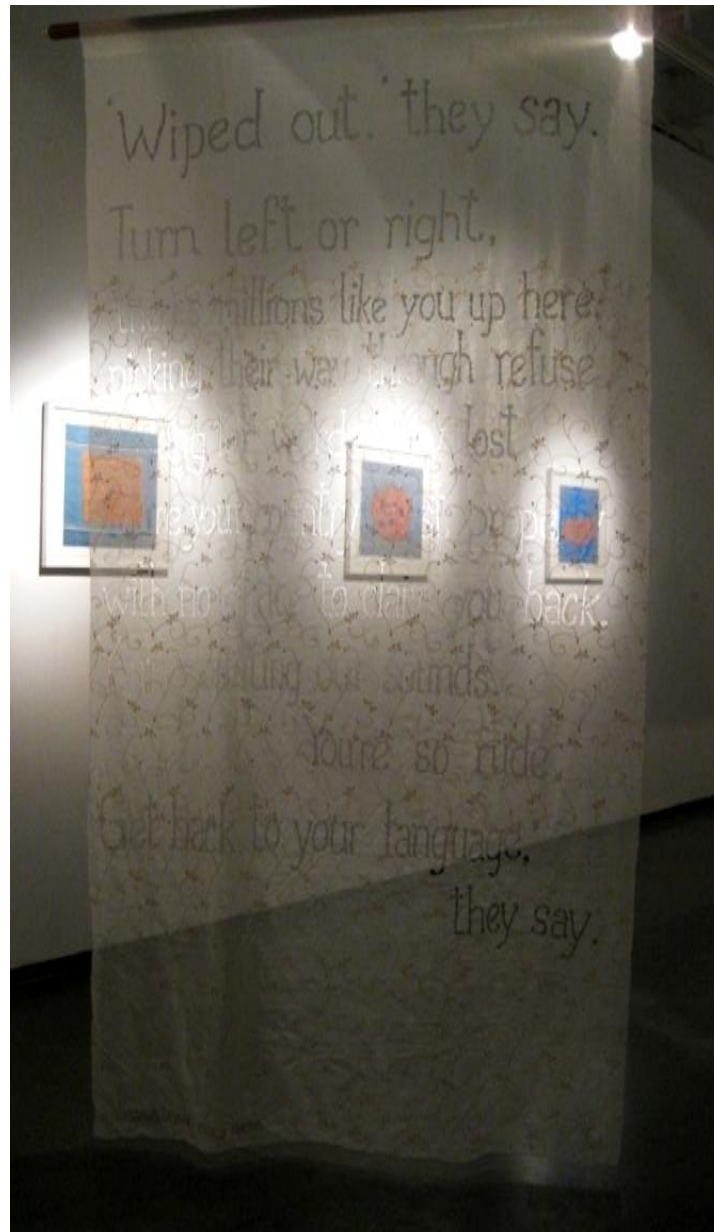
detail of *Reinforcement for the Displaced* (ii)



Reinforcement for the Displaced (iii),
singed polyester fabric, 96" x 60" (approx.), 2012



detail of *Reinforcement for the Displaced* (iii)



Reinforcement for the Displaced (iv),
singed polyester fabric, 96" x 60" (approx.), 2012



detail of *Reinforcement for the Displaced* (iv)



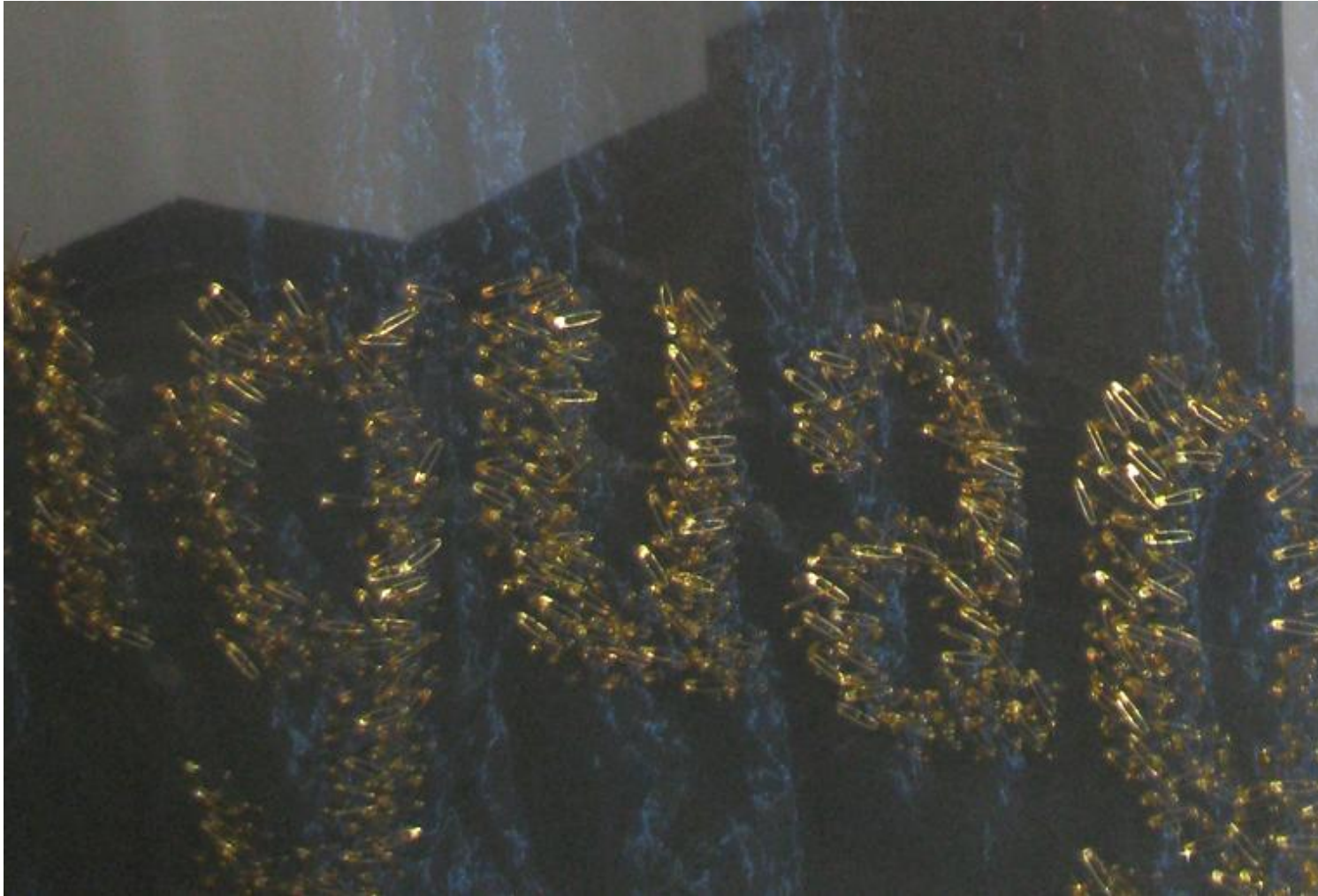
Reinforcement for the Displaced (v),
organza fabric, safety pins, 96" x 60" (approx.), 2012



detail of *Reinforcement for the Displaced* (v)



Reinforcement for the Displaced (vi),
organza fabric, safety pins, 96" x 60" (approx.), 2012



detail of *Reinforcement for the Displaced* (vi)



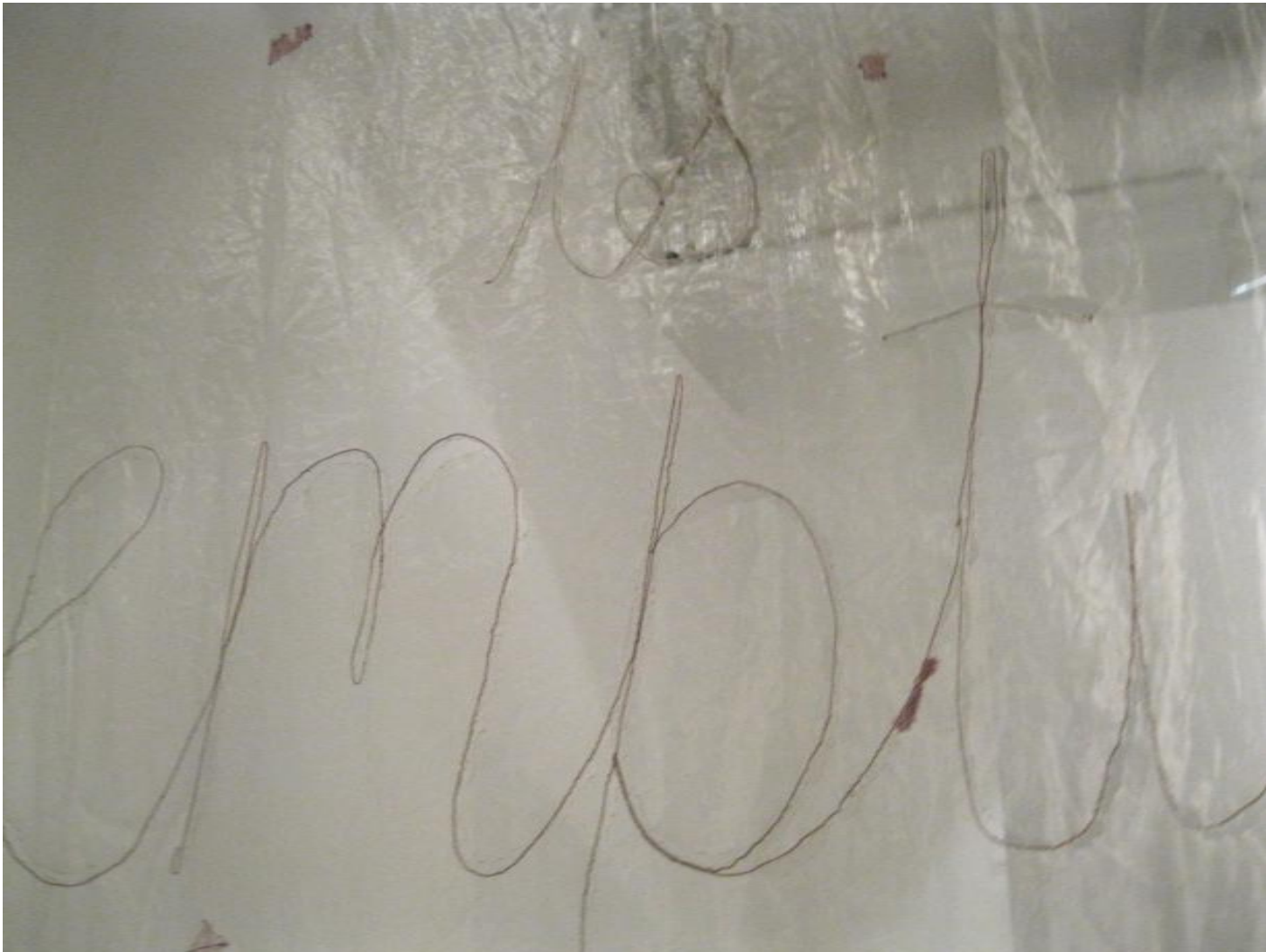
Reinforcement for the Displaced (vii),
organza fabric, safety pins, 96" x 60" (approx.), 2012



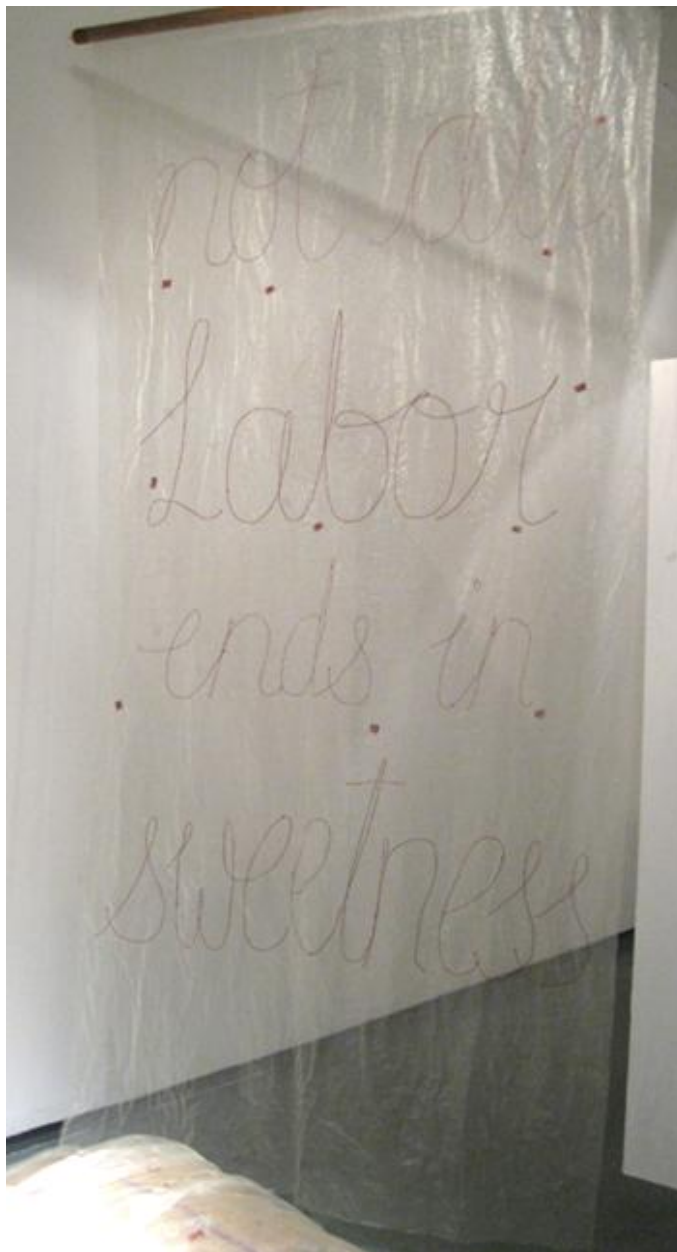
detail of *Reinforcement for the Displaced* (vii)



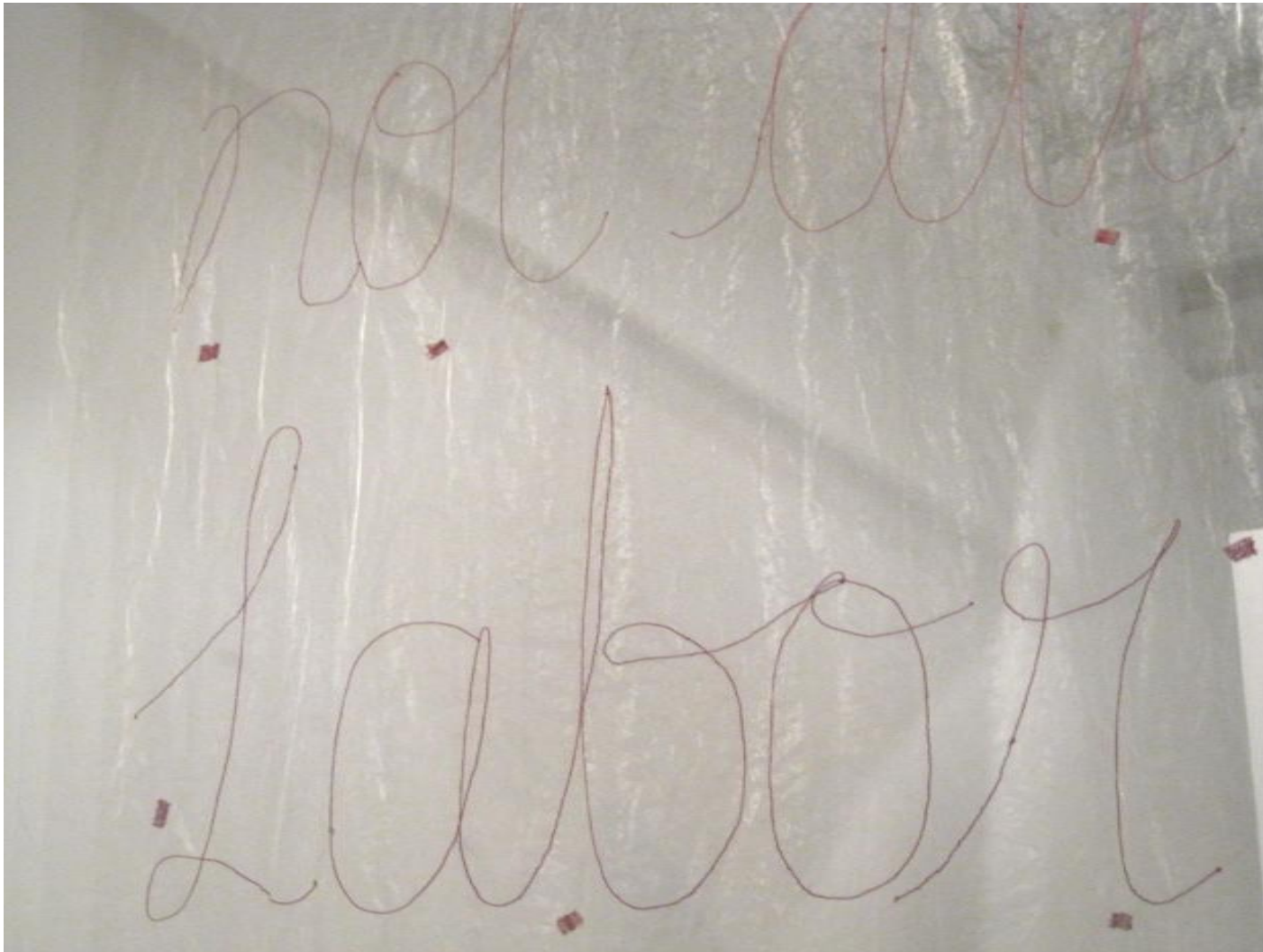
Reinforcement for the Displaced (viii),
hand embroidered organza fabric, 96" x 60" (approx.), 2012



detail of *Reinforcement for the Displaced (viii)*



Reinforcement for the Displaced (ix)
hand embroidered organza fabric, 96" x 60" (approx.), 2012



detail of *Reinforcement for the Displaced (ix)*



Abrasion and Erasure (i),
hand embroidery on gents handkerchief, 14" x 14", 2012



Abrasion and Erasure (ii),
hand embroidery on gents handkerchief, 14" x 14", 2012



Abrasion and Erasure (iii),
hand embroidery on gents handkerchief, 14" x 14", 2012



Abrasion and Erasure (iv),
hand embroidery on gents handkerchief, 14" x 14", 2012



Verse Converse,
hand embroidery on khadi cotton, 20" x 20" (each), triptych, 2012

RAKHI PESWANI

Born : 1977

EDUCATION

- 2003 Qualified the National Eligibility Test for Lectureship and Junior
Research Fellowship under the University Grants Commission
- 2001-2003 MFA (Ceramic Sculpture), M.S.University, Baroda
- 1996-2000 BFA (Painting), M.S.University, Baroda

MUSEUM AND INSTITUTIONAL EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *Zones of Contact* propositions for the Museum. Co-curated by
Vidya Sivasdas, Akansharastogi, Deekshanath. Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Noida.
- 2011 *Bodies / Subterrain* (Eurydice & Sita), exhibition and presentation of a
residency in The Hague at Vrije Academie
<http://www.vrijeacademie.org/2011-11-24/werkpresentatie-en-tentoonstelling-rakhi-peswani>
- 2011 *Generation in Transition New Art from India* curated by Magda Kardasz, Zachęta
National Gallery Of Art, Warsaw, Poland & Contemporary Art Centre in Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2010 *Triad: Introspection, Observation and Tradition*, an exhibition of Contemporary
Indian Art, at Loveland Museum/Gallery, Loveland, Colorado
- 2010 *Bring me a Lion* ; an exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art, at Cecille R. Hunt
Gallery, Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri. Curated by Jeffrey Hughes and
Dana Turkovic
- 2001 *Potters in Peril*, National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai

Solo Exhibitions

- 2013 *Anatomy of Silence* at The Guild, Mumbai
- 2011 *Matters Under the Skin* under Asia One, Hong Kong International Art Fair, presented by The Guild
- 2009 *Intertwinings*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2007 *Sonnet for Silent Machines* at Jehangir Nicholson Gallery & The Guild, Mumbai
- 2006 Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Mumbai, India

Group Exhibitions

- 2013 *India Art Fair*, presented by The Guild
- 2012 *VIP Art Fair*, presented by The Guild
- 2012 *Porous*, a group show at Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2011 Drawings at Chemould Art Gallery, Mumbai

2011 Turn of the Tide with Tangerine Art Space, Bangalore
 2011 India Art Summit, presented by The Guild
 2011 *Art Stage Singapore*, presented by The Guild
 2010 *Notes on the (Dis)appearance of the Real*, at Shrine Empire Gallery, New Delhi
 2010 *I Think, Therefore Graffiti...*, at The Guild, Mumbai and New York
 2010 *Reverie*, a group show at Chemould Prescott Gallery, Mumbai.
 2010 *Roots*; Group show commemorating 25 years of SakshiGallery, at The Park, Chennai
 2009 *Sculpture* at The Guild, Mumbai
 2009 *The New Vanguards*, at The Guild, New York and Saffron Art
 2009 *Analytical Engine* Group Show Curated by Heidi Fitchner. Bose Pacia, Kolkata
 2008 Art Asia Miami, presented by The Guild
 2008 *The Ego, The Persona, The Shadow, And the Old Man or was it The Great Mother?* A group show curated by Ombretta Agro at The Guild, New York
 2008 *Parables of the Thread*. A group show curated by Jayaram Poduval. At The Loft, Mumbai
 2008 *Through a Glass, Darkly; Reflections on the Self Portrait*. Group Show at The Guild, Mumbai
 2008 *Filament* A group show commemorating 5 Years of Peers Residency at Khoj, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
 2008 Participated in the Hong Kong Art Fair with Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art (FICA)
 2008 *Inner Vision*, Group show curated by Subbalakshmi Shulka, at The Guild, New York
 2007 *Beyond Images*, Group show at Faculty of Fine Arts, M S University, Baroda, Gujarat
 2006 Installation for the Ongoing Project *Real Memories, Imaginary Places*, at Cittadellarte, Biella, Italy
 2006 *Panchmarhi*, ABS Lanxess, Baroda
 2004 *Salient Liaison*, a curated, Collaborative Exhibition Project with Shaila Nambiar, Textile Designer based in Hyderabad. Funded by the Department of Culture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, The French Embassy in India & Alliance Française de Hyderabad, India

RESIDENCIES

2011 Artist in Residence with Kosmopolis Den Haag, at The Hague, The Netherlands
 2007 Artists' residency at Sanskriti Kendra, Sanskriti Pratishthan, New Delhi
 2006 UNIDEE in residency, at Cittadellarte, Fondazione Pistoletto, Italy
 2003 PEERS-2003, residency invitation from KHOJ, New Delhi

Awards and Scholarships

2007 Emerging Artist Award by Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art (FICA), Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi

- 2007 Won the Design Competition for an Entry in the Project *Cubes in Motion*, an ongoing Traveling Design Project collaborating local entrepreneurship and craftsmanship from Biella, at Cittadellarte, Italy
- 2006 Inlaks Scholarship for the UNIDEE in residence at Cittadellarte, Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy
- 2003 National Merit Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, HRD, Govt.of India

Teaching Experience

- 2011 Visiting Faculty for a workshop titled *Presence of thePast*. Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan
- 2010 Conducted workshop titled, '*Negotiating Individual Subjectivities and other Excesses*', Painting Department, Faculty of Fine Arts, M S University, Baroda
- 2009 Visiting faculty at Government college of Fine Arts, Trissur, University of Calicut
- 2009 Visiting Faculty at Raja Ravi Verma College of Fine Art, Mavelikara, Feb 2009 University of Kerala
- Feb 2004 - Worked as a Guest Faculty at Fine Arts Department, S N School of Arts and, May2012 Communication, Hyderabad Central University

Currently teaching at the Srishti School of Art and Design, Bangalore