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Art exhibition: *Ghost*



The haunting Mumbai

Ghost, an exhibition that opened at the Aicon Gallery in London on July 9, is Bose Krishnamachari's tribute to Mumbai, the city that has accepted him so much. He soliloquises his thoughts about it, beaming them out through video loops, a portrait of the self and a few of his household staff, digital images of Mumbaikars, and prototypes and sketches of Amuseum—his own dream museum.

In the installation called *Ghost-Transmemoir*, Bose uses 108 used dabbas—of the famous dabbawalas—LCD monitors, cables, coir ropes and scaffoldings, and lets the city speak for itself. Mini-screens are placed inside the dabbas, cutting into their sides. You travel through Mumbai and listen to its people, all

through the mini-screens, as if the dabbas tear open their heart to reveal before you the megalopolis that is Mumbai!

Bose then portrays realism in the faces of his household staff, with the close-ups tuned to minute details on a 60x60 inch canvas. He restricts himself to a ballpoint pen to express the ordinariness of the driver, the maid and the launderer. Yet they look at you straight in the eye from behind the silk canvas, from inside the colonial-style frames. They keep looking at you, like the Hindu gods keep looking into the heart of an ordinary believer, the driver, the maid.... And then the strangers turn dear.

As if complete inside, a self-portrait tries to reach



out to the world outside, like Bose the artist himself. He discovers his face concealed in the stone and etches it out, soaking it in rich red and black, reminding you of a factory worker always at work.

Deep-rooted in typical Kerala architecture and at the same time contemporary is the style used for his museum, the Amuseum. The prototypes and sketches of the yet-to-be-constructed structure conclude the exhibition, with its white structure reminding you of a misty past and an uncertain future.

Bhaskaran/LONDON