

Afifa Bashir

New Media Art

Image Studio Assignment 1.

I really got inspired from the few of the artworks that were shown in the previous class. Bani Abidi's artwork in which she created an extensive archive of the typologies of security barriers. It was an interesting archive symbolising the unrest beginning to prevail in the city. The artwork got me thinking about the design of architectural objects. Creating material objects and giving them a label creates a sense of alertness in the mass public. Bani Abidi's work displayed a set of material objects that were politically designed to increase surveillance, to ensure safety of the privileged, to make places more securitized. Another piece of artwork of Bani Abidi called the Intercommunication Devices had a similar intention. A material object, an intercom symbolises the fear of separation and alienation. It is perceived as a mechanical device which ensures safety of ourselves and our neighbourhoods but at the same time facilitates distance.

(i like the idea of archiving here)

Another piece of artwork which inspired me was of Shirin Neshat. In the Women of Allah series that she created juxtaposing calligraphic text with black and white images of Shirin herself as the subject with the rifle constitutes of the experience of being a women in Islam. The inscription of the calligraphic text in Shirin Neshat's artwork on the subject made me think of the art of tattoo and the practice of henna in South Asian culture. How the art of henna is celebrated and associated with the idea of marriage for instance, the brighter the color of the henna, the successful and happy the marriage would be and at the same time the art of tattoo is frowned upon and serves as a sign of rebellion. I like how Neshat brings together these practices in her artwork in an attempt to return the gaze and disentangle from the chains of subjugation of women

(i like the juxtaposition of text and image here)

Another artwork which inspired me is of Shadi Ghadirian in which she has created a montage series named 'Domestic Life' of women in pardha and juxtaposed with everyday household objects. It illuminates the domesticity that women are constantly consumed by. It's plain simple but compelling at the same time when the montage series are displayed together on a single wall. This is because the household objects are placed in a way which gives a weapon like feeling.

( i like the montage series and the idea of juxtaposing everyday objects).

I want to mix my sense of jewellery aesthetic that contributes to forming my own identity with the idea of cataloging using my own body as the subject. I choose to wear specific kinds of jewellery as a form of self-expression. As a way to build my own identity and to tell the world to paint a picture of me in their heads similar to what I have painted in my head and similar to what I want to become of myself. An identity of my own. An identity that embraces its own uniqueness. In tune with this, piercings are a form of body art. It's personal. It displays a rebellious picture of you to the world. I want to look within and to connect with myself. I want to express myself through my physical appearance. I want to employ my body as a medium through which I am able to manifest my personality.