

KOCHI-MUZIRIS BIENNALE 2014

Compiled excerpts from various reviews



“One of the most interesting works was by Indian artist Sumakshi Singh’s, whose *‘In, Between the Pages’* weaved mythology with the history of Kerala. In her installation, historical and mythical images – from the arrival of Vasco da Gama in Kerala to the depiction of the tales of the Naga Kingdoms – were projected onto huge scrolls of paper with paintings of trees and flowers.

“The projection was movement-sensitive; so, as we walked through the installation, it felt like we were walking through a beautifully illustrated history book. The projected animations brought to life various images – a flock of brilliant azure birds, whirling planets, a grand Portuguese galleon, its navigation guided by a starry sky.”

- *Rahel Josph* - *the Edge Gallery, 2015.*

“The world is an illusion. Sumakshi Singh is known for her interactive installations that allow the viewer to inhabit and alter the moment with their involvement. Her constant conversations with the external and internal serve as a locus and reference to space, tie, culture, history and ourselves.

"The pages of a book have moving images of everyday things projected onto it. Behind lays a maze of hanging paper scrolls. You are surrounded by familiar images of birds, animals, coconut trees and the like. The images cross planes and boundaries while you walk among them. The cosmology of *Surya Siddantha*; a Sanskrit text on astronomy, *Hortus Malabaricus*; a 17th-century study of Kerala's flora and the landing of Vasco da Gama from the narratives. At another end, a projection ties the maze together where the viewers find themselves as part of the image and the telling of the story."

- *Maria John – FWD Life Magazine, June 2015*

"Sumakshi Singh's interactive multimedia installation, *In, Between the Pages*, 2014, recreated the illusion of history and the viewer's self-discovering voyage. Influenced by a Sanskrit treatise on cosmology that dates back to 4CE, and a colonial compendium on Kerala's flora, her large beautifully aligned floor to ceiling painted scrolls formed the pages of an elusive manuscript. Flora, digital animation, and collages brought the work alive especially as a camera reflected the viewer's image onto the suspended scrolls in a compelling mode of inclusion."

- *Bansie Vasvani - Artillery Magazine, Feb 2015*

"At the Pepper House at Fort Kochi, Delhi-based Sumakshi Singh is working on a unique project that mixes animation with mythology. It will feature moving images, and will have the visitors also being characters, displayed on an array of screens."

- *Indian Express, Dec 2014*

"In Sumakshi Singh's interactive Installation, the viewer can alter the narrative by moving through this illusionary labyrinth. The 70-foot long maze, made of hanging scroll paper, has maritime voyages, birds, whirling planets, including the viewers, entering and leaving, seeking their spot in this illusionary manuscript. Voyages of the external world are to be the reflections of the inner journeys, through which we locate ourselves in space, time, cultural histories and in our own narrative, says the artist."

- *The Tribune, Jan 2015*

