

boundary

MAYA MACKRANDILAL: ANTI/body

Maya Mackrandilal vacillates between writing, poetry and art-making. She has researched and studied texts including but not limited to, Partha Miller's Much Maligned Monsters: A History of European Reactions to Indian Art, Banhu Kapil's Incubation: A Space for Monsters, Cedric Robinson's Black Marxism, Vivek Shraya's She of the Mountains. The activism and writings of Angela Davis, Phoolan Devi, Yuri Kochiyama and Audre Lorde are particularly relevant to her practice. Over the past 10+ years, her pieces have explored narratives that draw from American and European hegemony, cultural, political, economic histories of colonialism and the questionable theory of "post-colonialism", Marxism, Patriarchy, Feminist theory and Capitalism.

Taking cues from Edward Said's Orientalism, the idea of the mythical "Orient" plays a strong role in her work. Mackrandilal confronts the overtly racist history of ethnography, based on the Euro-centric oppression of colonialism.

Mackrandilal posits a world without borders, liberating women and their sexuality from the use of their bodies as objects to be worshipped or destroyed, and smashing the patriarchy and its history of violence and exploitation. She creates artworks that embody power relationships, cultural symbolism and female sexuality. Each work displays a series of characteristics that have been carefully researched and codified into projects that overtly reject a homogenization--or white-washing-- of systematic racism.

Susannah Papish, September 2017

