

Hemali Bhuta

Inversion...Inverted...Eureka!

Ferric alum, 5'0" x 2'0" x 1'6", 2012



INVERSION...INVERTED...EUREKA!

It's an inverted bathtub...it's a tomb...it's also an alum mass...
One becomes the other, and then turns into still another ...
Multiple formations...manipulations...multiple meanings...eureka!
I sink
Submerged myself
Drowning the self.
Death of the alter ego.
My breath.
They buried me...my fear
My displaced weight

I breathe...I sink...I float...
He built in honour, in adulation, an edifice
A Memorial
A trace of the erasure
Ablutions...Invisible stains...
By touching the dead and by contact with childbirth.
Something that begins and ends
And to equip the dead
On their journey.

Inversion...Inverted...Eureka! is an alum cast of an inverted bathtub. This work reflects the anxieties of bathing and consequently drowning in a bathtub. The transition from the form (the body) to formlessness (disintegration of the body) is conveyed through the use of alum as a symbolic and actual material

Alum is commonly used in Ayurveda for its medicinal qualities and functions as a solute to purify water thus demonstrating the process of metamorphosis, of dissolution, of submission. Known for warding off the evil eye, Alum is employed in many Indian cleansing rituals.

A parallel may be drawn between the Hindu philosophy of the body as an illusion and as a vehicle, with the existential philosophy of Soren Aabye Kierkegaard, who says “Listen to the cry of a woman in labor at the hour of giving birth – look at the dying man’s struggle at his last extremity and then tell me whether something that begins and ends thus could be intended for enjoyment.”

The cycle of birth and death is that of the body, which in essence is an illusion. Thus, with this introspection, one is able to overcome the fear of this inevitable cycle.







