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PRESS RELEASE

RANDOM ACCESS

Kallol Datta

10 – 31 August 2017

Opening Preview: 10 August 2017

Experimenter presents *Random Access*, an exhibition by Kallol Datta, that explores the deeply linked conceptual, material and technical aspects of Datta's design practice. The exhibition opens on August 10 and will continue until August 31 2017.

Throughout his career, Datta has been working towards understanding how the body adapts to the fabric form. Often, three dimensional, free flowing folds create shapes and silhouettes, against prescribed fits and desired proportions. Making structural experimentations in pattern cutting, Datta 'skews' traditional geometry to create garments, which collapse when not worn. The structure of the designs and the way they appear therefore, are interdependent on the body that wears it.

Datta's practice has a strong relationship to Constructivism as the combination of *faktura* – the visually apparent properties inherent to materials of an object, and *tektonika* – its spatial presence... axes that consistently appear in the objects and garments. Moreover, like the Constructivists, Datta works on interpreting three-dimensional constructions as a means of expression in his practice, making his work have a certain distinct sculptural presence in its final worn form.

Random Access, Datta's first exhibition within the gallery in Kolkata, delves into conceptual frameworks that bind his work and reveals questions that confront Datta in his quest for understanding form. These questions constantly toggle between the *faktura* and the *tektonika*. Questions such as how do you cut when there is no front?... And no back? Absence of a shoulder and neither armholes nor any sides to the form? Especially when no perceivable gender is associated with the structure, should one then cut to just cover and clothe the structure? Or should one continue with the way one normally makes clothes? Or is there a middle ground to discover? Equally interested in exploring material, Datta experiments with cottons and crepe silks, cutting them on their biases and placing them on their axis which still is capable of holding the garment's balance.

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Datta uses garbage bag fabric, treating reclaimed silk and cotton to give the appearance of the ubiquitous garbage bag in the garments at the show that appear to stand on mono dress forms. Appearing to have no material value on first encounter, the silhouettes created using the garbage bag material at Experimenter have an added plastic film, layered on the textile changing the behavior of the material furthermore. At one end of the gallery, a series of pattern-cut paper drawings resemble multi-layered collages and at the other end, metal panels hold folded fabric sculptural experiments. Brass miniature sculptures of the amorphous dress forms, invoke the relationship between the possible renditions of the form in other unexpected material.

Like a sculptor, Datta allows himself access to questions of material, form and structure reflecting on the complex 3-way interaction between the garment, the viewer and the wearer in Random Access.

For further information and enquiries, please write to admin@experimenter.in or call on +91.33.2463.0465 / +91.33.4001.2289