Press Release
Srinagar Biennale Basel - Episode 1: ONLINE

Date: Saturday, 17th March, 2018
Opening: 11:30 h
Venues: HeK (House of Electronic Arts Basel) and Swissnex India, Bangalore

Srinagar Biennale Basel is the Swiss node of the Srinagar Biennale International, a rhizomatic event spread across many cities. The curators of the Swiss node focus primarily on contemporary Performance Arts, that includes a critical exploration of the virtual space as a performance venue.

The Biennale takes places in two episodes in Basel.

Episode 1 marks the Opening of the Biennale, followed by a virtual exchange between the Swiss and Indian Perfomance artists. Four Swiss and Four Indian artists will perform to audiences in Basel and Bangalore respectively, connected with a live video streaming across the countries. This exploration of the virtual space also poses an intrinsic challenge for Performance artists who are known to test and even break existing frameworks. The situation offers a contradiction: Liberation from a physical space (via live streaming) while framing / capturing them in a static camera frame.

The event is designed to include the audience too within its framework. The entry is free however one must sign an agreement form to allow the camera to be on them as well during the performances, as per the design of the event. The approach is a reflection of our times with ever tightening boundaries and yet a continuous exposure to new influences, often originating much beyond the boundaries.

The entire Biennale follows a carefully chosen curatorial thread: *Art as a difficult space I Art from a difficult position*. The design for the ONLINE Performance event of Episode 1 has evolved through many discussions between the Basel based Directors / Curators of the Srinagar Biennale Basel, Janine Schmutz and Parvez Imam, and Suresh Kumar G., the Bangalore based Co-curator for the Indian part of the Episode 1.

Our partners include, HeK (House of Electronic Arts Basel); Atelier Mondial, Basel; Swissnex India, Bangalore; Ausstellungsraum Klingental, Basel; FABRIKculture, Hegenheim (France); Kaskadenkondensator, Basel; PANCH (Performance Art Network) Switzerland.

The Biennale is generously supported by many individuals and organizations that include CMS Christoph Merian Stiftung, SüdKulturFonds, Kulturelles.bl, Abteilung Kultur Basel-Stadt and Stiftung Temperatio.

More details are available on the website: www.srinagarbiennalebasel.org

For further information, queries or Interviews, please contact:

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