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Still from ongoing film project ***Ningwasum***

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Subash has MA in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins (2016) where he received UAL Vice Chancellors International Scholarship, BA in Fine Art from Middlesex University (2011), and Intermediate in Fine Art from Lalit Kala Campus, Kathmandu.

His works with sound, film, music, performance, painting, and podcasts, exploring the relation between art and social change. His works are inspired by science fiction, future scenarios of struggle, resistance, climate change, and indigeneity.

Currently based in Kathmandu and London.



To the stars and beyond 2020

digital painting

size- variable

“Every time I get a new mission, its my mother who’s more excited than me, she would go through every line of my mission schedule, ask me about troubleshooting mechanisms, what would I do in so and so situation? Why would I do it and on and on.

She would even demand me to send updates and esp images every two days as if she is a chief mission controller. 🧑. She would prepare foods I like most, freeze it, vacuum pack it and label it.

This time I would be gone for much longer and I could see sadness behind her excited face for she knows only too well about not hearing from dear ones lost in mission.”

Memories of the future.



Tafatlung-3
300-5

This aptly named mission Tafatlung, water source location, is the latest announcement by the agency regarding plans to build infrastructure around the spring. The agency is working closely with different groups and will be responsible for installing energy units and water supply for future communities.

Parallax featuring Bhagat Subba

Sound and Film, 2019
03:40

link- <https://youtu.be/Ef9-wNf7fPI>

Parallax featuring Bhagat Subba, first premiered at **Serendipity Arts Festival; Look Stranger**, Goa Dec. 2019, imagines indigenous narrative in futuristic scenario, where indigenous language, values and sense of belonging not only serve as cultural entity but also inspire scientific endeavours. It imagines a future where indigenous folk tales and shamanic chants will have totally different function with totally different purpose.

This work uses one of the few remaining indigenous scripts in practice today in Nepal. This Yakthung script belongs to my Limbu - also known as Yakthung - indigenous community from eastern Nepal, and the voice is an early 1991 recording from the first music album in Limbu language by Bhagat Subba. It was illegal to record and distribute indigenous music before 1989. Subba often mentions that he was denied to sing in his Limbu language in the national Radio Nepal when he passed his voice test in 1977.

This work also uses sound and images (especially of Sagittarius A*) from NASA's archive.





Image- Mustafa Boga

Otherness

Sound work/Music, 2017

06:43

Vocals- Mustafa Boga

Composed for artist Mustafa Boga's film "Otherness"

Link- <https://soundcloud.com/subash-thebe/otherness>



Ningwasum, Moving Across Time and Space, 2019

Acrylic and MSA insignias on canvas
300 X 150 cm

Ningwasum which roughly translates to memory in Limbu language (indigenous language of Nepal) and was made specifically for **DAS 2020, Dhaka Art Summit: Seismic Movements**.

Memories of possible and not so possible events woven into stories have been a fundamental way of accessing and disseminating knowledge and information to future generations in almost all indigenous communities, including Subash's Limbu community and the hill communities of Bangladesh.

In a sense, memory is more significant for the future than for the past. Subash plays with the idea of memory being able to locate itself in many different points of time and space.

For instance, the glacial lakes in this painting are painted in present and imaginary time frames; sometimes they freeze back to glaciers and other times they grow bigger. At times, Himalayas are rich with snow and glaciers and at other times, they are nothing but dark grey tectonic rocks.

There's a spaceship in the frame, its shape inspired by the object called Silamsakma, commonly used in Limbu rituals and widely adapted by his community as a symbol of identity. This spaceship can in theory travel through time and space with its magic-like technology, and this memory of its existence in the future explores implications previously unimaginable.



And Then We Melt

Sound and Film, 2018

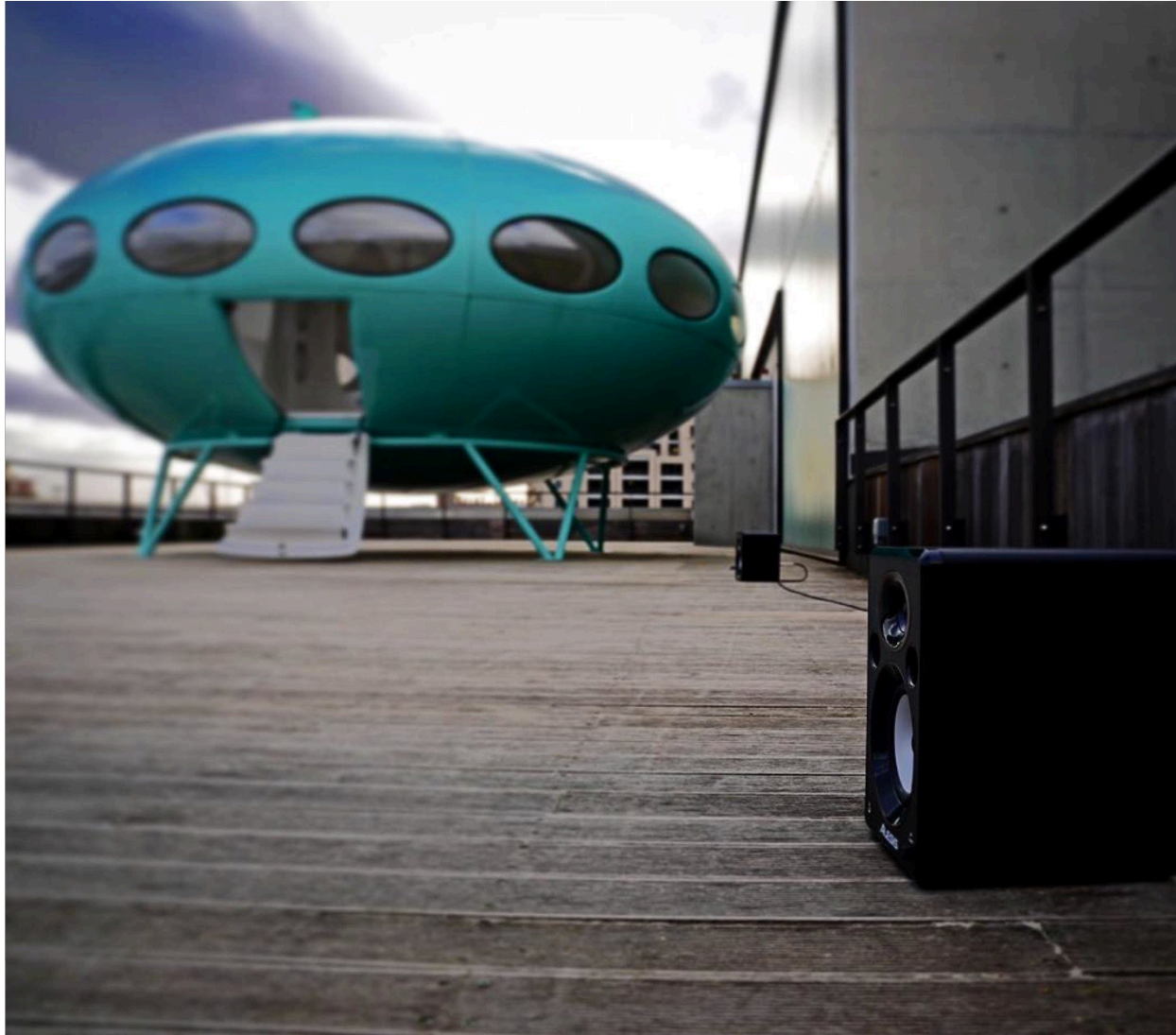
10:10

Sound recording of melting glaciers using hydrophones.

Location- Kanchenjunga, Nepal.

Link- https://youtu.be/sxGC0hX_u5o



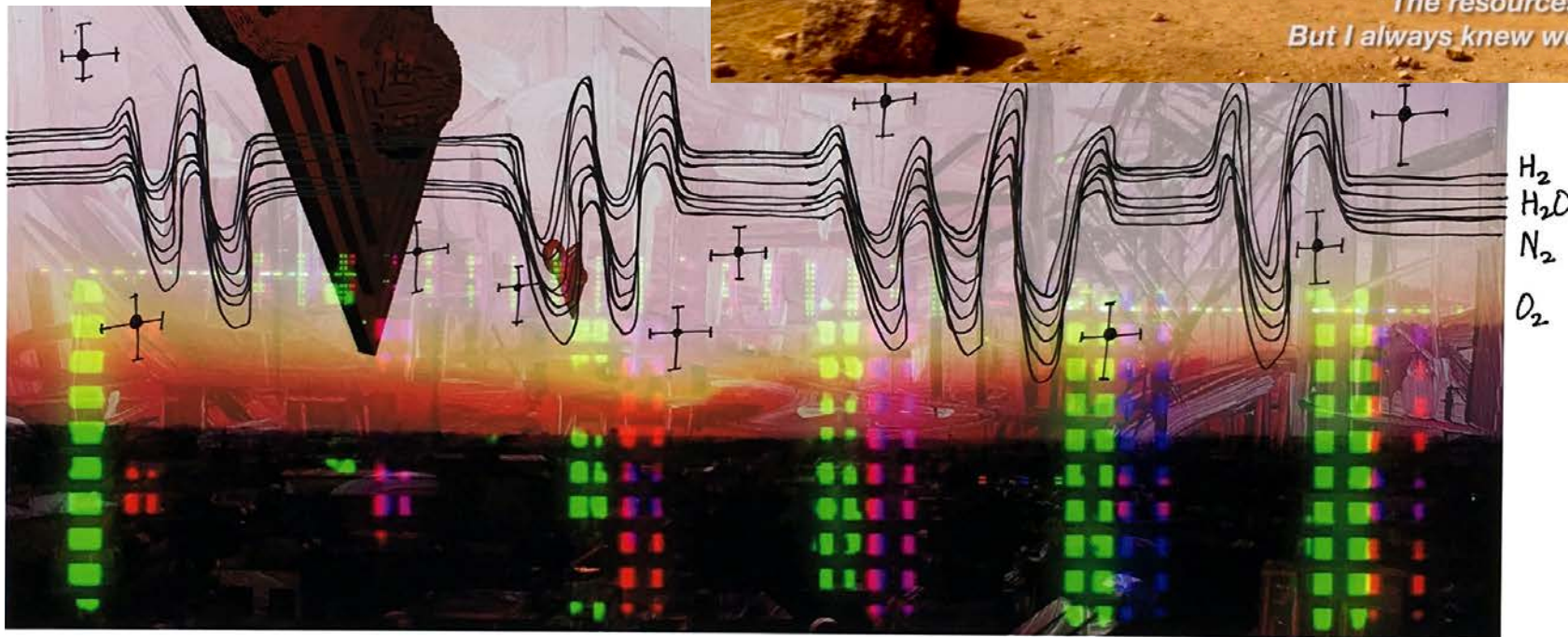


Futuro
 Sound work, 2016
 Live Performance at The Futuro House, London.

Open call for emerging artists!
 All works are accepted; 2D, 3D, installations, digital, web-based, sound, performance, writing any many more.
Submission fee -£15 for 1 work, £25 for 2 and £30 for 3 works.
 First 50 applicants will get 10% discount.
 Please provide **a short introduction or story about** your practice and the impact of capitalism on **democracy**
 in no more than 1500 words. Only shortlisted applicants will be invited, the rest are encouraged to work as a volunteer for the show.
 Please strictly follow the guidelines! Unfortunately we won't be able to give feedback or disclose the selection process. Decision of the respected judges will be final! P.S. 50% commission if the work is sold.

A Short Story About Democracy
 Sound work at Project Radio, 2017
 10:56

Link- <https://www.mixcloud.com/projectradiouk/a-short-story-about-democracy-subash-thebe/>



NEHIRDEN DENIZE river to sea

Sound and Film, 2017

Narration- Mustafa Boga

Text- Subash Thebe and Octavia E. Butler

07:40

Link- https://youtu.be/lqXG1fZ_d24

BEYOND THOSE HILLS LIES MY HOME . IT HAS NOW TURNED INTO A BATTLEGROUND .
YOU SEE . I ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY TO AN EXOPLANET OUT OF MY INTEREST IN
SCIENCE AND EXPLORATION . BUT NEVER THOUGHT OF FLEEING OUT AS A REFUGEE .
NOW , I DESPERATELY WANT TO LEAVE THIS PLANET , BUT THE VEHICLE WE
CAN AFFORD IS UNRELIABLE AND MIGHT END UP NOWHERE IN SPACE ,
OUR FROZEN DEAD BODIES ENDLESSLY DRIFTING IN VOID .

This work uses video footage taken during Every Me art residency at Adana, Turkey, and also includes images from ancient city of Harran, Şanlıurfa (Urfa), the view of Mediterranean Sea from Mersin, clips from Sandbox Universe, and a spaceship from exoplanet called Numasaam.



I'll Take Us There One Day
Music, 2017
04:51

Link- <https://soundcloud.com/subash-thebe/ill-take-us-there-one-day>



Indigenous Sounds for The Future
Sound and Film, 2018
01:01

Link- <https://vimeo.com/175130803>



Misam Space Agency युमा (MSA) insignia, 2019

Embroidered insignia
70mm X 70mm

Misam Space Agency युमा MSA is an interstellar space agency.

The agency is believed to have unimaginable technology, and the anecdotes of its astronauts sounds more like stories of time traveller.

Unlike our present day capitalist patriarchal society, the world of MSA is based on matriarchy where Yuma (The Grandmother) is the head of the Agency and serves the people as a guardian and a uniting force.



Image- Tiffany Singh

Composition of A Simple Universe

Sound work, 2018
07:59

sound installation in collaboration with Tiffany Singh, Eco River Arts Festival in Ulsan, Korea, 2018.

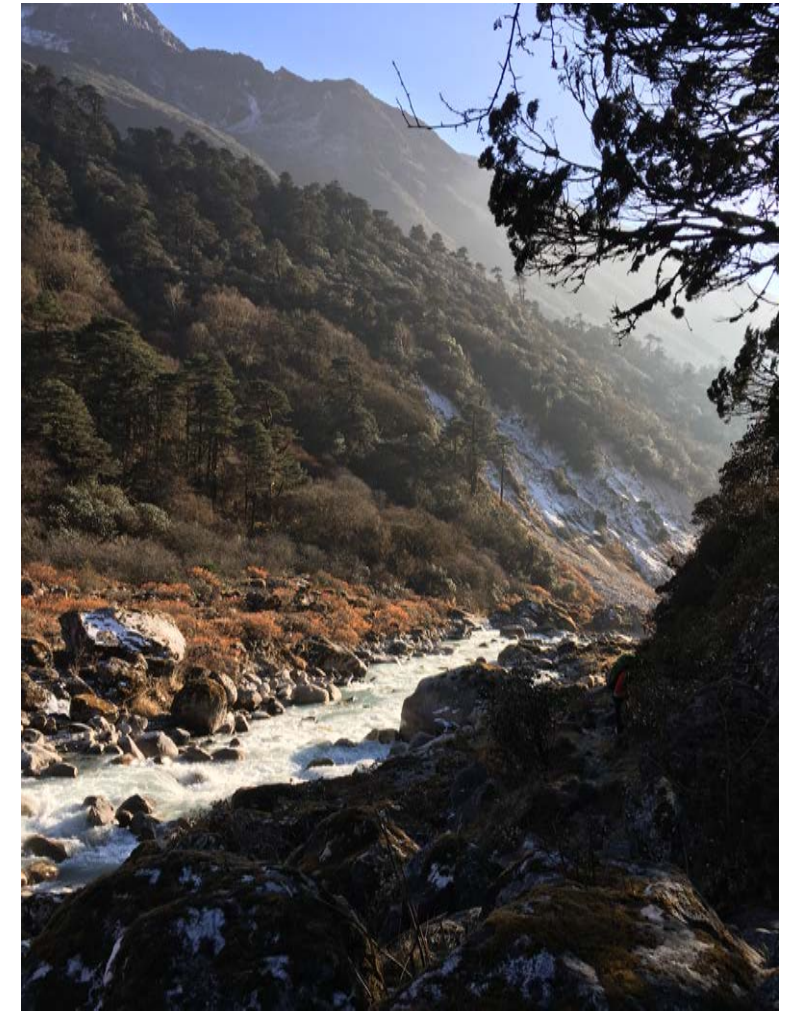
Link- <https://soundcloud.com/subash-thebe/composition-of-a-simple-universe>



Can You Hear Yourself Out In The Streets?

Sound work, 2016
04:39

Link- <https://soundcloud.com/subash-thebe/can-you-hear-youself-out-in-the-streets>

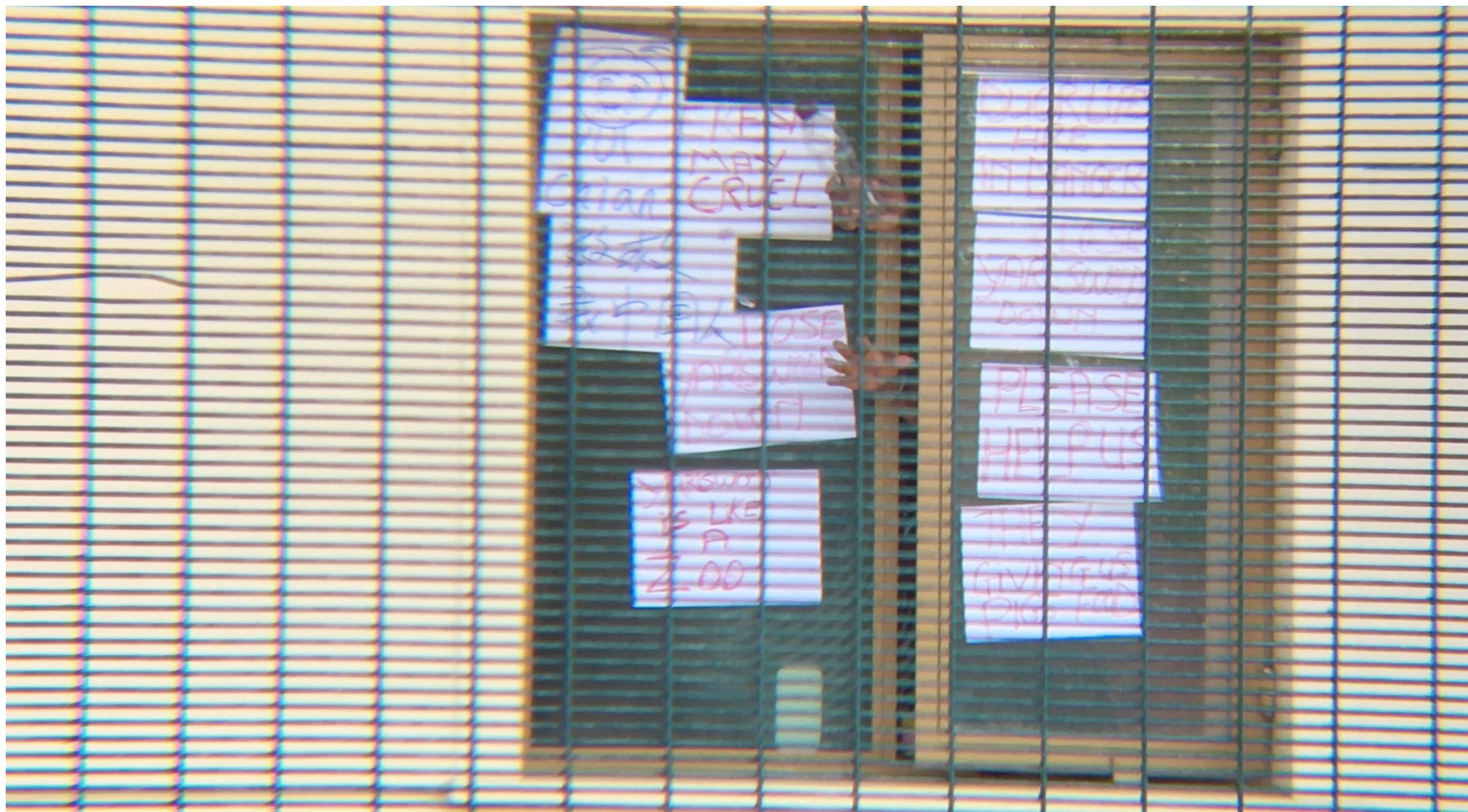


Sound Walk

Sound work, 2017
06:53

Sound recording of a walk in Kanchenjunga, Nepal, early December 2017, on the Way To Torongden From Tsairam by the river Simwa.

Link- <https://soundcloud.com/subash-thebe/sound-walk-on-the-way-to-torongden-from-tsairam-kanchenjunga-conservation-area-nepal>



#surroundyarlswood
Sound and Film, 2018
01:00

Music and film made in collaboration with activists especially for a campaign against inhumane treatment of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in UK detention centres.

Link- <https://youtu.be/qkqd3GizTf4>



Image- Will Webster

Live performance at Lethaby gallery, London 2017



Live performance at Central Saint Martins, 2016

Image- CSM



Image- Rosh Khakhban

Live performance with artist Mustafa Boga, 2018





Sound Installation view, 2016.



Tara
Live performance at Metaphonica 2016
19:42

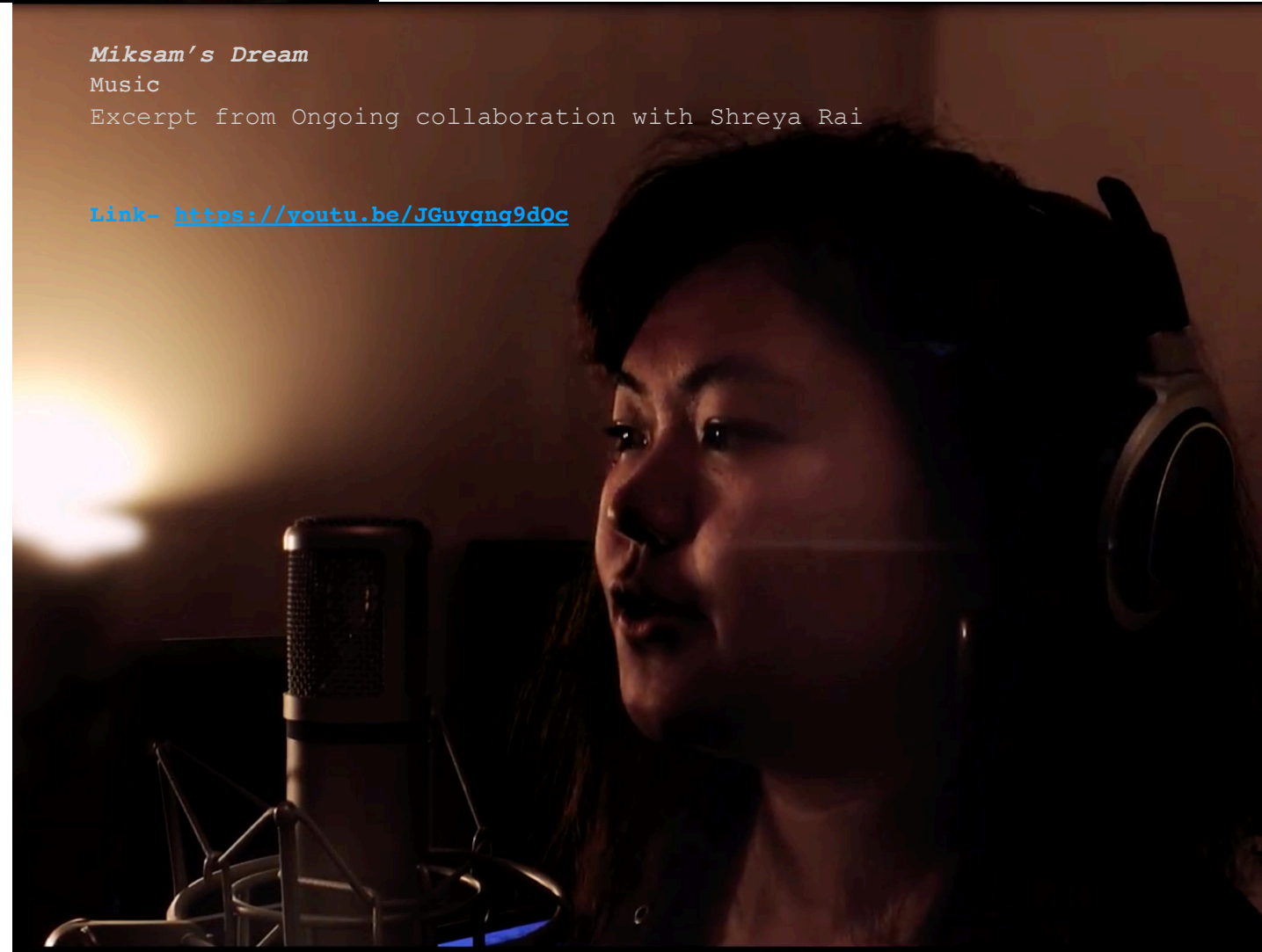
Link- <https://soundcloud.com/subash-thebe/tara/s-NdQs9>



  bomb_factory_art_foundation
Live at Bomb Factory Art Foundation,
2017



Live at Field Day Festival, 2016

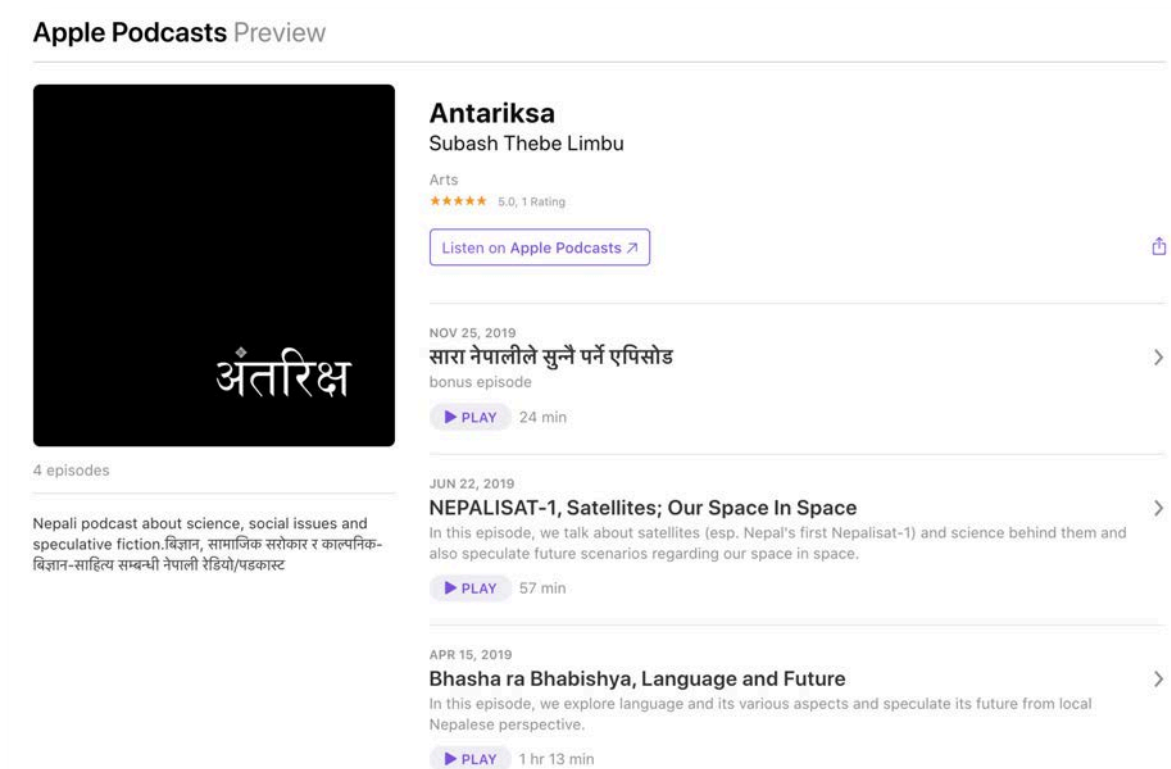


Miksam's Dream
Music
Excerpt from Ongoing collaboration with Shreya Rai

Link- <https://youtu.be/JGuygng9d0c>

Podcast

Ongoing radio project



Screenshot of podcast **ANTARIKSA**

Link- <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/id1464693102>

Antariksa is a Nepalese podcast about science, social issues and speculative fiction.

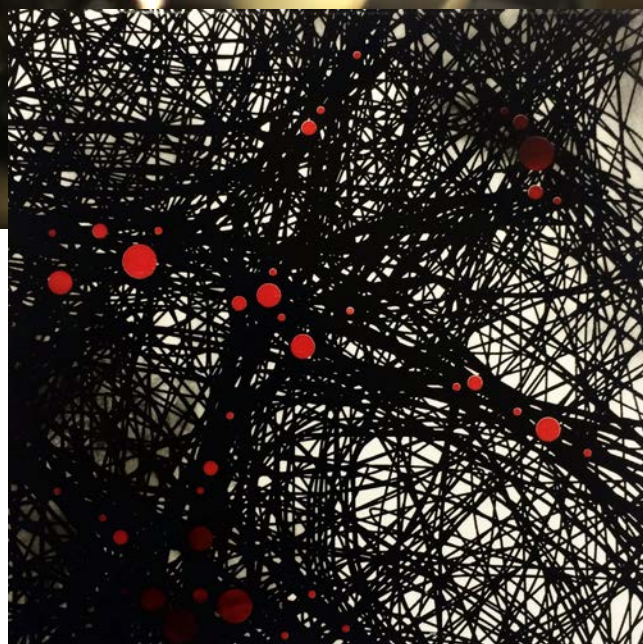
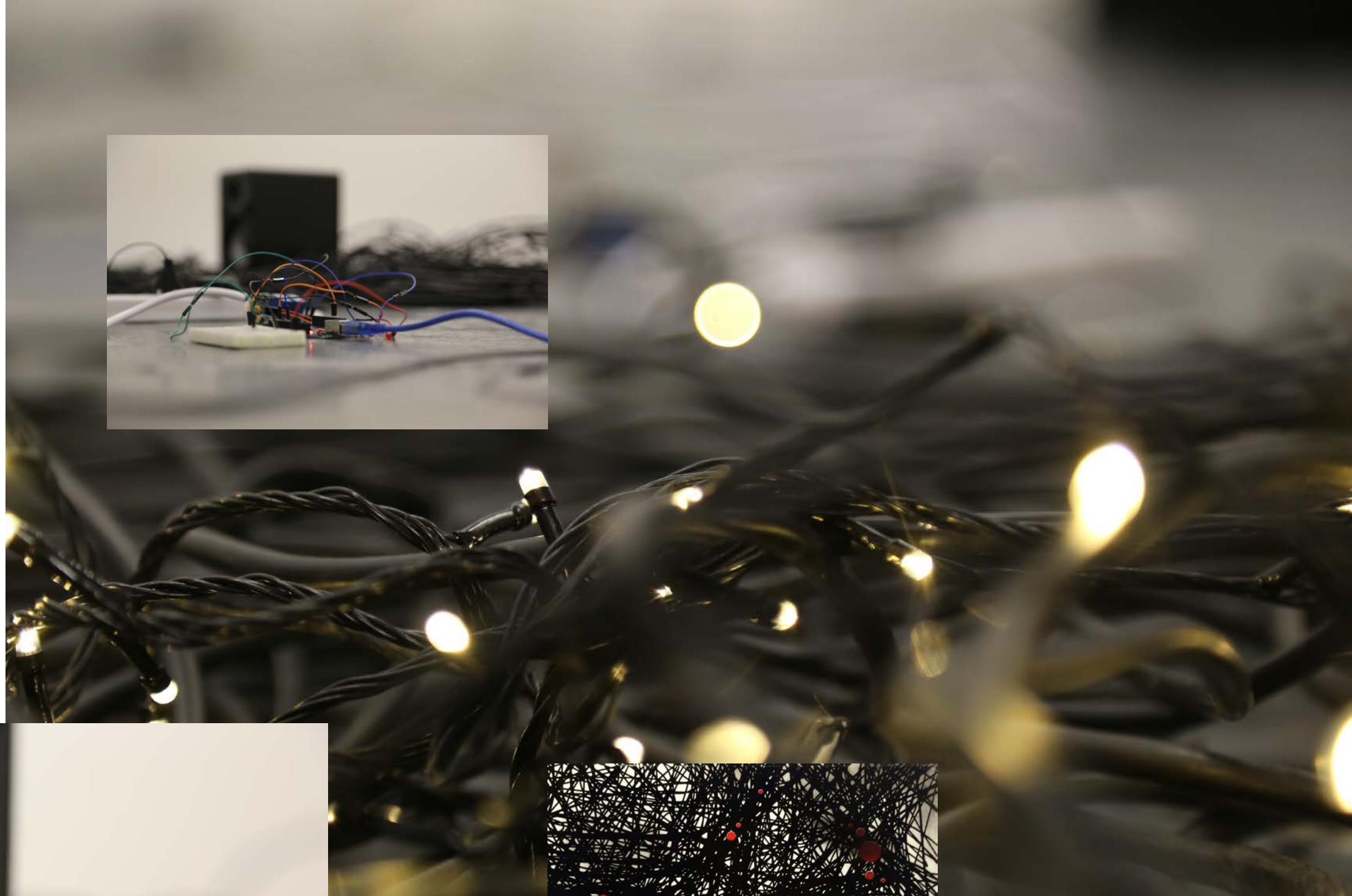
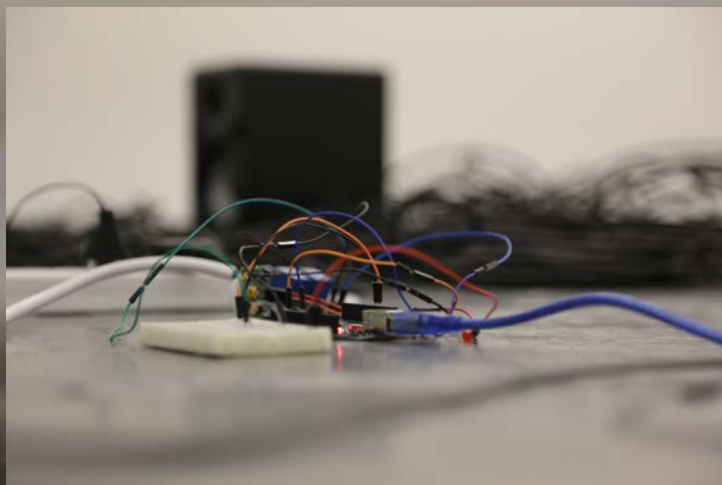
It explores contemporary issues of Nepal and abroad, by interviewing guests on respective field and speculating possible and not so possible future.

This podcast is a collaborative project with sound engineer Bishwo Shahi and writer Prakash Sunuwar. I produce and host the episodes.

Internet access in Nepal grew from mere 9% to 45% in the last seven years, followed by rapid rise of blogs, vlogs and sensational news media. Although the mainstream radio stations are still widely popular, podcast is slowly gaining momentum in Nepal. As an artist who uses sound, storytelling, science and sci-fi, I find this podcast project as a very interesting medium.

From disappearing languages to science of satellites, and re-imagining future cities, this project emphasises narratives and speculation from the perspective of indigenous and marginalised communities.

*Installation for
Dark Matter series,
2016*



Stills from protest and my performance, Kafala, 2013, at the gates of Embassy of Qatar, London.

Kafala is visa sponsorship system in gulf states including Qatar, "where a worker's visa and legal status is tied to her employer. This system creates a profound power imbalance between employers and workers and imposes tight restrictions on migrant workers' rights." (HRW, 2014)

Thousands of Nepalese migrant workers leave for UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia every year. After 2013 shocking revelation of migrant workers death in Qatar, there was a huge outcry from all international communities against poor treatment and slavey like conditions of workers in the Middle East.

Although Qatar recently abolished the exit visa requirement in January 2020, which was a part of Kafala system, it still has all other parts of the system leaving workers vulnerable to exploitation.



Selected Exhibitions and Performance

The Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Brisbane, 2021

Kathmandu Triennale 2077, Kathmandu, 2021

Dhaka Art Summit; Seismic Movements, Dhaka, 2020

Serendipity Arts Festival; Look! Stranger, Goa, 2019

collaboration with Tiffany Singh, Eco River Arts Festival in Ulsan, Korea, 2018.

Live Performance at Angus Hughes Gallery, London, 2018

Every Me, group exhibition, 27B Gallery, London, 2017

Every Me / Ben Tanidik Bir Yabancı, group show, Altın Koza Kültür Ve Sanat Evi, Adana, Turkey, 2017

Below The Clouds, group show, Coombe Gallery, Dartmouth, 2017

Live sound performance at BOMB FACTORY ART FOUNDATION, London, 2016

CSM at Field Day Festival (live performance) Victoria Park, London, 2016

CSM Degree Show 2016 (live performance), London, 2016

METAPHONICA II, (live performance) Central Saint Martins, UAL, London, 2016

Dark Matter Futuro House, Sound Project at CSM Futuro House, London, 2015

Group project at TAP Gallery, Southend-on-Sea, 2015

A SHORT STORY ABOUT DEMOCRACY, Project Radio, A SPACE FOR ARTISTS AND PUBLIC TO MAKE RADIO, & Model Gallery, Leeds, 2015

You'r the reason our kids are ugly, MAFA Central Saint Martins Interim Show, The Laundry, London 2015

New Art Now, Contemporary Work from Nepal, KCAC, Royal Overseas League, London, 2014

#metadata, Solo Exhibition, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Kathmandu, 2014

Kafala, performance/protest at the gates of Embassy of Qatar, London, 2013

Ghost In The Machine, Islington Arts Factory, London 2013

ArthAUS, Degreeart.com Gallery, Vyner Street, London 2012

Five Seasons, Tokarska Gallery, London 2012

Middlesex Degree Show, Brick Lane, London 2011

Parcha Art Exhibition, Mile End Pavilion, London 2011

Lloyds TSB Art of Nurture, Saatchi Gallery, London 2010

Nepalese Art Show, Old Rag Factory, Brick Lane, London 2010

Writings

SOCIOCRITICAL ART: IS IT REALLY A COMMODITY LIKE ANY OTHER?

<https://www.lar-magazine.com/post/sociocriticalart>

Lloyds TSB Art of Nurture, Birmingham, 2009