

From: Praneet Soi
To: Rustom Bharucha
Cc:
Sent: Sunday, November 11, 2012 4:55 PM
Subject: Praneet Soi

Dear Rustom.

I'm back in Amsterdam after 3 chaotic weeks in Kolkata, where I devoted a part of it (another part of it was dedicated to obtaining a new passport) immersed with Bishuda, printing with him in his shop...understanding the intricacies of composition and playing with the restrictions that mark out the limits of the frame.

I also got a glimpse of the artist's ego as he labored to print a photographic half-tone block that we had used successfully some time ago, that now refused to take ink.

I was about to collect the "failed" prints for my records when he snatched them away, crushed them into a ball and threw them into an inaccessible corner of the shop , admitting finally that his roller, now old, was culprit!

Prints that came out well were deftly (and immediately) pinned on a metal hook that was tied to the wall, mingling with a sheaf of papers that were examples of his commercial work.

In Kumartuli the processes subsumed within printing on the treadel-press may be linked back to the old woodblock industry that historically flourished in this northern quarter of the city.

Bishuda introduced me to Anilda, who's grandfather was a pioneer in making wood-blocks. The family slowly switched to photography (and this is how Anilda came in contact with me - he subcontracts the making of the photographic blocks from Bishuda).

He is less illustrious than his ancestors, but has retained the knowledge transmitted to him over time, of his trade and its lineage.

Well, over to your collages - Im inclined to believe that the two paged composition I sent you on Abu-Graib detainees and captors, is complete as working on it further rather deadens it. And I'm very happy that you find the white spaces within them dynamic as it provides the breathing space that such imagery does require. I will now work on the falling figure, but I do have some compositions that I have worked on before...ill send you an attachment below.

Ill end here,

A big hug,

Praneet