

Artist Statement

Varun Sardana - On my passing away

'A woman told Picasso, "Yesterday I saw your painting, your self-portrait, at a friend's house. And it was so beautiful that I kissed it."

Picasso asked "What happened then? Did the painting kiss you back?"

The woman said, "What are you talking about? Of course not!"

Picasso said, "Then it was not my portrait." '

In all the time that I have existed under the glare of the public gaze, people have always viewed me not so much as an individual but through the veil of my work, trying to understand the resonances in my work through snippets of my personal experience. Even in my mind, Varun Sardana the brand sometimes overcame Varun Sardana the individual. This project is an attempt to let go of that 'public' Varun and give a glimpse of the 'private' Varun existing within.

In fashion, disappearing from the public gaze is as good as being dead; there is no space for personal tribulations, even after a designer's death the brand must live on. In the past one year, I have deliberately kept myself out of that public space to understand what the world of fashion was doing to me as an individual. I was still compelled by my work but not seduced anymore by the space that the work existed in. Now as I make my steps back into that world again I have to first exorcise many aspects of that old Varun so it is a death of me as the world knows me in many ways but it is also the birth of a new me, no longer hedged in by the petty concerns of the world that so bound me earlier.

My presentation seeks to explore all these aspects of what it means to pass away - no longer live and be bound by the rules of the fashion world, to find meaning within and outside of that world. One of the aspects of fashion that always fascinated and repelled me was the inherent narcissism that we creators ultimately succumbed to. Using my auto portraits of me in my skin and work from my recent collection, I want to explore the duality of my existence, as a creator of aspiration and trends and as an individual just coming to terms with himself. Juxtaposing my intimate self and my personal effects with my work that is bound by the created image of my brand, this presentation is an unflinching window into my world - no airbrushing involved! Come in to the funeral of Varun Sardana - come into the world of Varun Sardana.

Andy Yen - Incredible "A"ndia

Andy Yen creates his own organic visual language. During the residency at Khoj he will combine the Indian image with his own visual language on garments. This experiment will create a new visual experience. Andy + India = "A"ndia.

Archana Hande - Copy Master ji

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The idea of Plagiarism, Copy, or to Fail excites me a lot. I do feel 'to copy or to steal' ideas and to make it mine. I feel it is the most original pieces of work, if I could succeed to copy perfectly.

Steal from talented tailors, designers and artists and put them in my space before they can.

Priya Pall says: "When studying art history, we were taught the difference between a copy and a reproduction. It was very interesting. A reproduction can be of any dimension, but for a copy to be a copy, it has to be of the same dimensions as the original"

So I replied: "The concept of reproduction is different. Reproduction is not a look alike or a copy it is an edition. It is interesting to know about the same dimensions. The reproduction can be enlarged. But reproduction means repeating and that I dont like. Copy is not a repeat it is unique.

In fashion and art worlds - all points are quite a debate in today's day.

I would like to copy and fail at the same time. The most difficult job to achive this: you need to be secretive you need to find references you need to research in style and mediums and materials, you need to be skillful ---basically you should have a fantastic balanced diet.

Which is true last year 2011 I too tried coping the sky of starry night and I failed.

Faseeh Saleem - 36'' 26'' 36''

Blurring the boundaries between art and fashion, the work makes an inquiry into the 'Notion of Beauty' equating it to an hourglass figure. This is a question about the human perception of what a perfect body size is? How a mannequin becomes a perfect body reference in the construction of an article of clothing, during the making involves both the presence and absence of the real physical human body.

Julie Skarland - The Collections

Skarland will showcase her Spring/Summer 2012 womens wear collection. The presentation will include a "collectors "display, and a stop motion video from the catwalk show. Bonus track: "The Graduate" , a video.