

Notes & Sketches for a Multimedia Performance

Steven P. Perkins



In-Side-Out is a multimedia performance collaboration between visual and video artist Steven P. Perkins, an Indian dance troupe, and an Indian composer. The dance performance explores the themes of power, control, helplessness, and self-determination with a local group that combines modern and classical Indian dance to live or recorded music by a local composer/DJ.





The set would include visual tablets of painted wood created in the gallery specifically for the performance. These tablets resemble the walls of a fort (each piece being unique and available for sale via the gallery). Each tablet is a three-dimensional sculptural object, worthy of presentation on front or back, and with a port-hole sized large enough for a hand, an arm, a foot or a leg to protrude through during performance.

The dancers would work around and through the tablets using classical dance inside the fort, and

modern dance outside the fort, and gradually during the performance, the styles would exchange: in-side-out.

Concurrently, video loops projected on to all four of the gallery walls contribute to the multimedia extravaganza. Themes for the video projections are: 1) stasis & perpetual motion; 2) power & light; 3) extremities & vulnerabilities; 4) acceptance & devotion.





The idea was inspired by the walls around Ajmer Fort and other monuments, palaces and forts in and around Delhi. The wall tablets would each be cut individually, rather than from a pattern, making each tablet unique in shape and size. The tablets will then be prepped with a primer, and covered with acrylic paints and collaged materials with the front a smooth surface of layered paints, and the back a collaged surface of text, images and textures.



The surface decoration of the individual tablets will primarily be a palette of tans and off-whites with underpainting giving depth and texture.









