

“Comfort Zones” - Artist Statement

Comfort Bodies Series (2007)

Comfort Zones (2011)

Measured, Stitched and Stretched Series (2009-2011)

Monumental Dress Series(2011)

I was fascinated by my mother's body... It is a body that refuses to tire; refuses to let go of the monumentality of its presence. Saggy breasts, thick hips, fleshy belly and heavy thighs come together to form this uncompromising shape of the woman. It is the most ubiquitous shape of the post middle age female I find in my country: It is the mother's body, a body that wears the all-encompassing dress of motherhood. It's a comfort giver's body. It is a body located beyond the usual norms of sensuality, a body made (a)sexual through the protocols of 'motherhood', confined now to giving unconditional love, this body of the mother defies usual commodification of femininity or fetish objectification of spiritualized beauty. It is a form too stark. Sutured and marked with pain and pleasure through its many phases of fecundity and left alone to stand silently observing the life/lives she procreated go beyond her grasping to find their own destinies. A sense of loss overlays her presence, and that loss is not totally her own. It is also a loss for the comfort giver and loss for the comfort taker.

Her monumental presence anchors one to a sense of belonging, and even from a distance her gaze still holds the power of scorching scrutiny. Even if this monumental form might seem passive, it certainly is not. It churns numerous memories and it instills a guilt in me for all the comforts I have enjoyed and the nostalgia I feel now for those moments in her embrace.

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