

MASOOM PARMAR

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Portfolio

Recent

Works



www.masoomparmar.com



Masoom Parmar

ARTISTE
CURATOR
ARTS MANAGER



As a non-binary, queer artist with a Muslim-Zoroastrian heritage, my process breaks down the classical Indian forms of Bharatanatyam and Kathak into their smallest elements and tests their relationship to other elements outside the preconceived boundaries of form. My work is influenced and driven by the multiplicity and diversity of culture and the cross-cultural influences that have produced various art forms, as well as the inherently inclusive nature of these forms in this part of the world. It is an attempt to understand and decipher the unconsecrated from a contemporary point of view. Through my work, I seek to facilitate difficult conversations about the self and its socialisation, as well as explore the coexistence of the spiritual and the sensual. I am also fascinated by the human body as a cultural object and how it continues to be a performative subject that connects the political to the theatrical, the construction of ethnicity and technology, private and public spaces, race and gender, and a medium that transcends the boundaries of art and life.

History
Movement
Writing
Dance
Context
Perspective
Kathakali
Bharatanatyam
Kuchipudi
Folk Dance
Gaze
Politics
Chhau
Ballet
Positionality
Reading
Modern
Manipuri
Mohiniyattam
Odissi
Contemporary
Kudiyattam
Kathakali
Dance
Contemporary
Kathakali



2021

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Read +
Write

Dance



About Read + Write Dance

ROLE Course Facilitator

CONCEPT

Read+Write Dance, a 60 hour course conducted by dance scholar Ranjana Dave over three months, will offer you the tools you need to deepen your understanding of dance. This is not just a dance criticism course. It is as fundamental as the title suggests - you're going to be reading and writing dance - critically unpacking how you see or watch dance, and thus, how you interpret it.

The course, designed and facilitated by Ranjana Dave, will address both larger historical and critical trajectories that frame dance, and the tools of the trade - the practical and day-to-day implementations of this knowledge - like talking about your own work or writing performance synopses, framing grant proposals and research projects, designing research projects, writing for the public - on social media platforms/print and online publications, and teaching students in different contexts - in dance class, in schools and universities, and more.

Arts Admin

Course



2021



CONCEPT

Developed with the current requirements and gaps in mind Indian Performing Arts Ecosystem, ARTS ADMINISTRATION is a digital course spread over 6 months of coursework and an additional 1 month supervised internship.

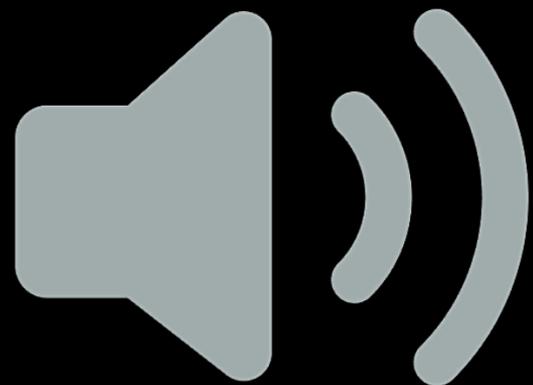
The course is designed by me to equip participants with tools for managing artists and performing arts organisations. What is learned can also be applied to the student's own practise. The goal is to build a network of arts managers and administrators who will work both in their individual capacity and collectively for the advancement of an otherwise unstructured and often neglected field that contributes millions to the Indian economy.



About Arts Admin Course



ROLE Course design + Facilitator



2020

Unmute

About Unmute - Breaking the Culture of Silence

ROLE **Project Manager**

CONCEPT

"UNMUTE - Breaking the Culture of Silence" was an online workshop addressing the ethical and legal conversations on patriarchy, misogyny and sexual harassment in art pedagogy and practice in India. We invited students and practitioners in the performing arts sector for this discussion and sharing with diversity and inclusion advisor Asiya Shervani. This moderated session threw light on the kinds of sexual harassment, the laws against it, redressal mechanisms, the responsibilities of institutions, organisers, employers, festivals and gurus. The purpose of the workshop was to provide students and practitioners with a vocabulary to articulate their discomforts and burdens, individually and collectively and to begin finding their own voice towards safer and healthier work environments across arts practice and pedagogy.

VIDEO LINK

<https://youtu.be/aElwxBQfqpo>

Dancing without the Gods



2020



CONCEPT

How do two non-Hindu bodies engage with a dance form that has been soaked in Hindu mythology? Could the secular have rescued these dance forms from the thick cloud of reverence that emerges from their allegiance to religiosity? Would the secular have safe-guarded these dance forms from the repressive grips of the state that has dedicatedly stifled the creative potential and critical abilities of these forms by linking them to an imagined ancient history?

Mandeep Raikhy and I met in Bangalore and spoke about some of this. In response to some of these burning questions, we set up an exploration between three elements: our bodies, the architecture of Bharatnatyam and the banner with SECULAR INDIA written on it. The immediacy of each others' bodies and a constant negotiation with the banner began to disrupt the Bharatnatyam vocabulary in several ways. The outcome of our exploration is a provocation- What does it feel like to dance without the gods?

VIDEO LINK

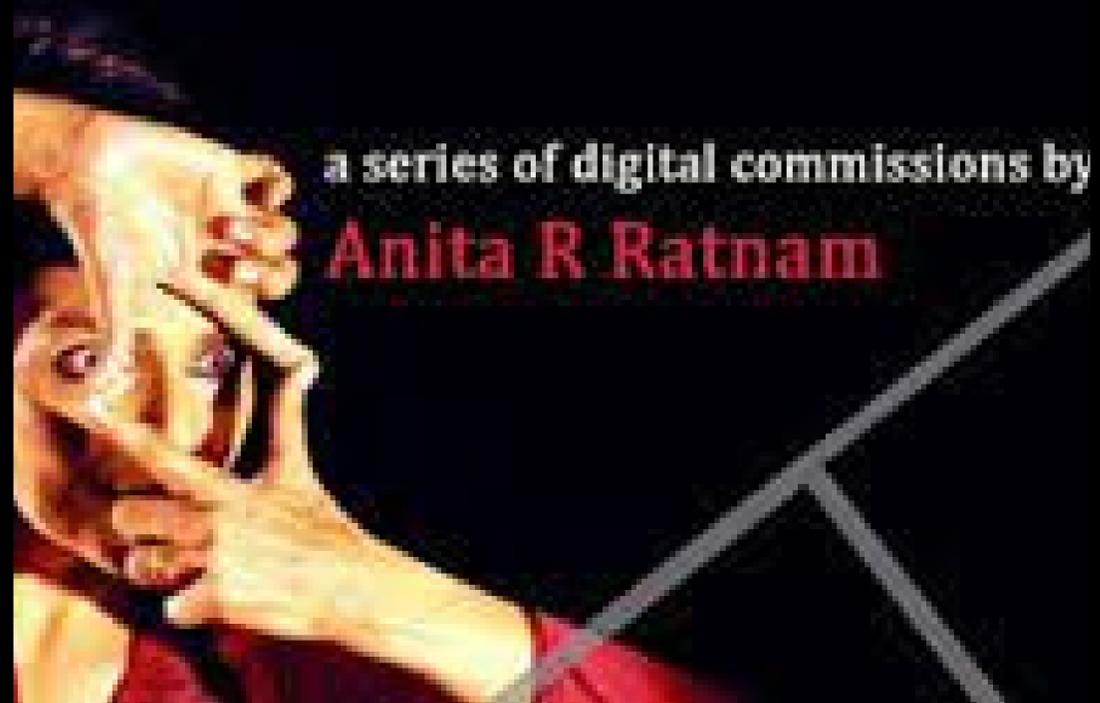
<https://youtu.be/50Xlf6OWorE>

About Dancing without the Gods

ROLE Performer

BOXED

DANCE DELETES DISTANCING



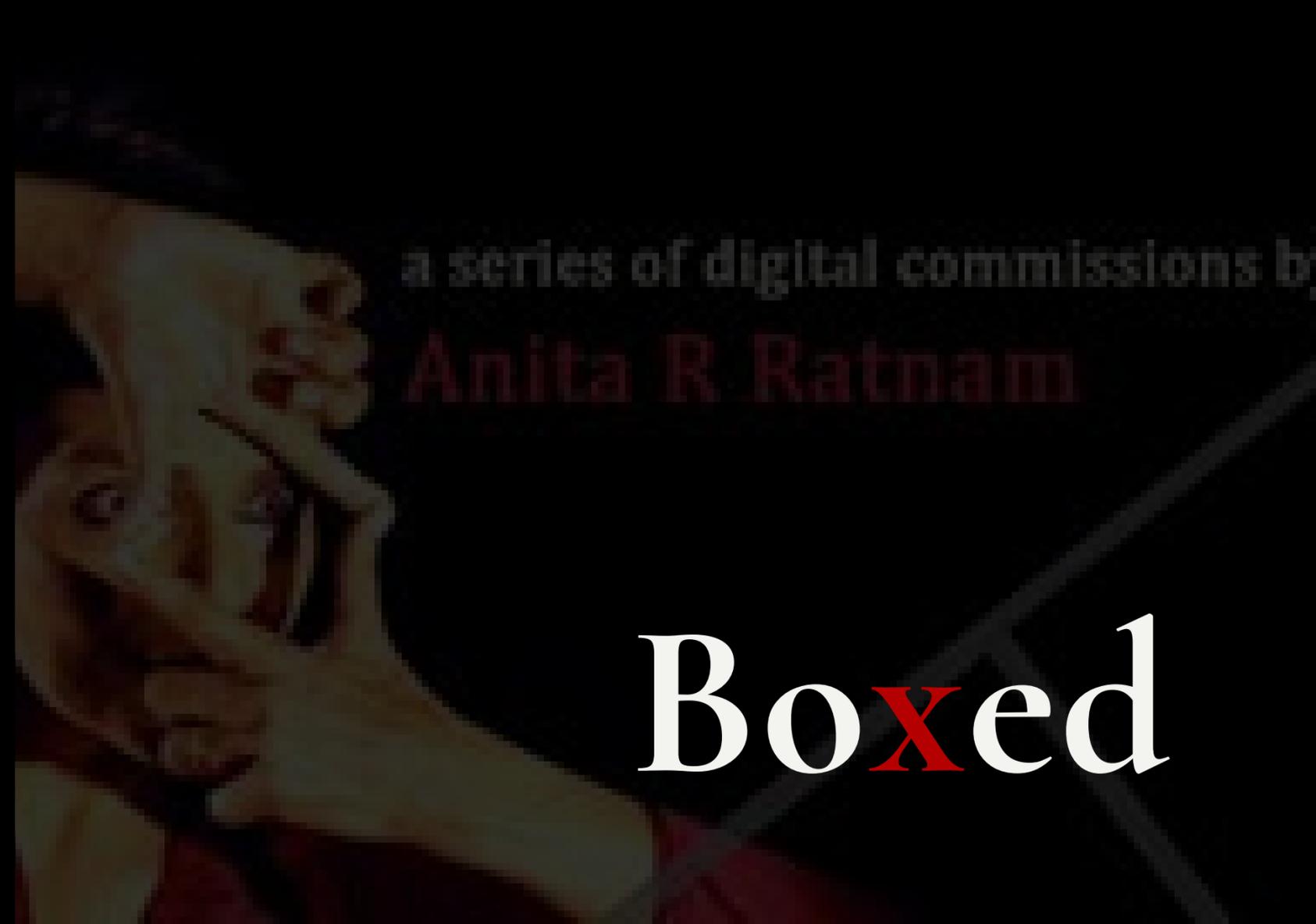
a series of digital commissions by
Anita R. Ratnam



2020

BOXED

DANCE DELETES DISTANCING



a series of digital commissions by
Anita R. Ratnam

Boxed



About Boxed

ROLE Line Producer

CONCEPT

Curated by Anita Ratnam in May 2020, Boxed was a series of 8 episodes of digital commissions featuring 40 dancers who created 2 minute sequences during the first lockdown due to Covid 19 pandemic.

VIDEO LINK

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmwK2YUncqk&list=PLawHnKB4UjotNmaxrvZgQoS6jTi_zX9n6

Get in touch with me



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