Gigi Scaria: Prisms of perception
13–28 October 2012

Presented by the Ian Potter Museum of Art in partnership with Utopia@Asialink.

Delhi-based artist and University of Melbourne Macgeorge Fellow, Gigi Scaria, will present a series of video installations at the Ian Potter Museum of Art during the Melbourne Festival as a precursor to his major solo exhibition at the museum next year.

Deploying humour and images of India’s rapid urbanization, Scaria’s work creates futuristic environments that reinterpret our relationship with modern progress. He constructs imaginary architectures, unfamiliar landscapes, and humorous film scenarios where people are often trapped inside, or excluded from, built structures such as apartment buildings or lifts.

Scaria’s experience of moving from his village in the southern state of Kerala to the sprawling national capital made clear to him the alienation commonly experienced by migrants. His videos are informed by the constant flux and change of ‘great’ cities and the effect this has on newly arrived as well as long-established residents.

For Scaria, ‘Notions of politics, identity, nationalism, industrialization, modernism, lifestyle, crime, madness, spirituality and anything and everything that human beings have been proud to assert as their own are constantly produced and consumed by the city. Indulging in the core of urban life made the urbanite think of him/herself as a romantic outsider of the system s/he deeply inhaled’.

Scaria will also participate in a free public forum titled Lemuria: cultural entanglements between Australia and India, on Monday 15 October at 6pm as part of the Melbourne Festival at Sidney Myer Asia Centre, the University of Melbourne.

Prisms of perception is curated by Bala Starr at the Potter, and Natalie King from Utopia@Asialink. It is presented in association with Melbourne Festival.
Gigi Scaria (born 1973) is one of a new generation of Indian artists who have established a significant international exhibition profile. Scaria has presented projects at major international art museums and events including the 2011 Venice Biennale (India’s debut presentation) curated by Ranjit Hoskote. Since 1994, he has participated in more than 90 exhibitions throughout India and in the US, the UK, Europe, Asia, Israel, the West Indies, the Middle East and South Africa.

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Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm: Saturday and Sunday 12 – 5pm

Images above from left to right:

Gigi Scaria
Prisms of perception (production still) 2010
single-channel SD video, 16:9 ratio
colour, sound
4:25 minutes
© Courtesy the artist

Gigi Scaria
Settlement, 2009
wood, mirror glass, paint
203 x 457 x 153 cm
© Courtesy the artist

Gigi Scaria
Amusement park (production still) 2009
single-channel SD video, 16:9 ratio
colour, sound
5:24 minutes
© Courtesy the artist