# Portfolio

Aasma Tulika

# Bootleg Tongue

2024; 40 min music album, lecture performance, video

*Bootleg Tongue* is a project comprising a musical album, lecture performance and a music video.

Counting time with the rhythms of Tamte frame drums, 808s and Marfa kettledrums, *Bootleg Tongue* is an album composed of soundscapes that traverse multiple neighborhoods, trade routes, and cosmic imaginaries. It mixes field recordings of crowded streets, Youtube shorts of drumming tutorials, non-classical remixes, and Doordarshan archives to improvise with ideas around a haptics of migratory movement that bypass settled cartographies.

Link to album:
https://aasmatulika.bandcamp.com/album/bootleg-tongue

Link to live performance at Jangpura studio, Delhi:
https://youtu.be/Z89vmqY_2rg



BOOTLEG TONGUE
Aasma Tulika

20.07.24
7pm
live @
Jangpura studio
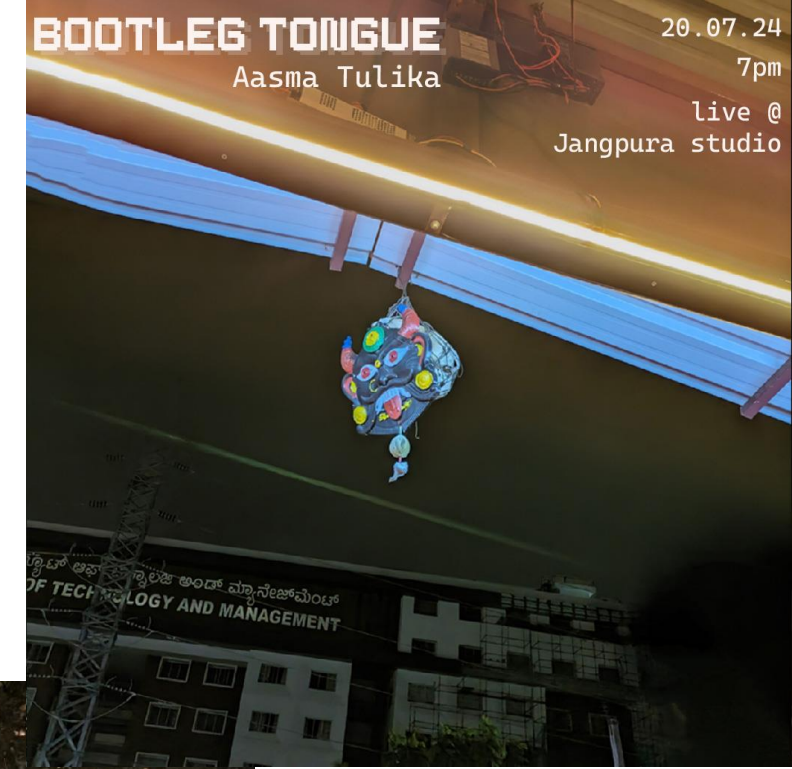
Poster & album cover



Fridge cards

Performance and video loop install shot, Jangpura Studio

Drawing on the history of the first electronic communication system established in the Indian subcontinent, the lecture performance traces the figure of the signal operator and the Y2K computer bug to explore entanglements between material practices of crafting other life worlds and the politics of touch.

Link to lecture performance at *Recompositions,* Collingwood Yards, Melbourne:
https://vimeo.com/1066129468

Video stills
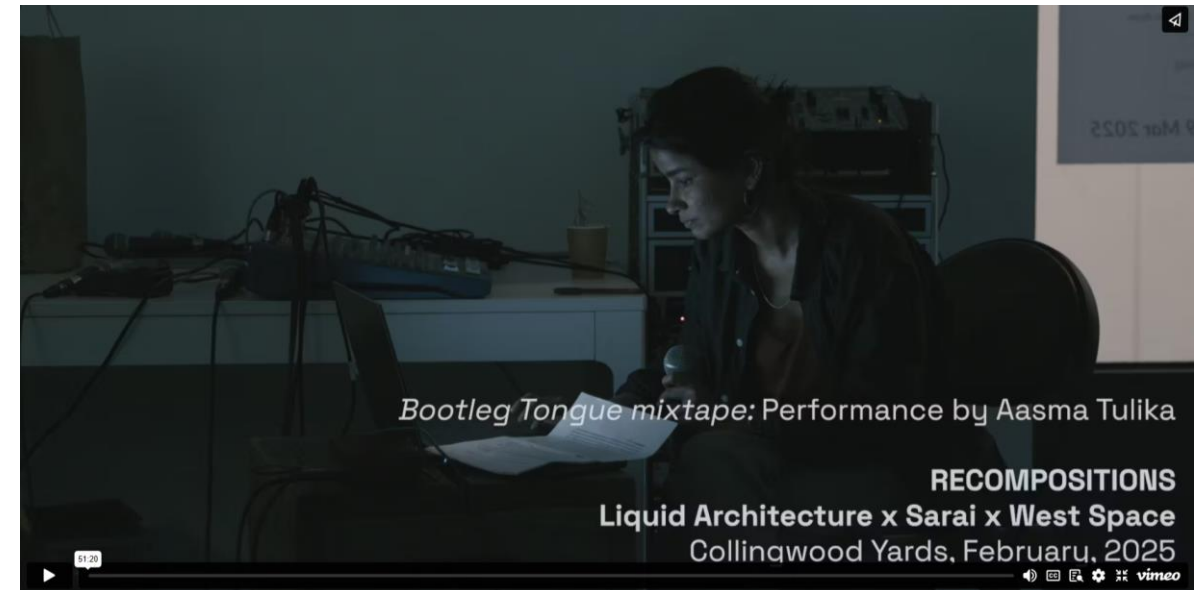
Mic Check, music video

The video follows a signal operator – a deewani – as she moves in the hi-tech city, through bustling markets of religious replicas and demonic talismans. She follows power lines and street lamps that lead towards temples of technology. As she prepares to transmit a message, she refers to percussive instruments made of animal skin. The skin is stretchy and moist, producing a resonance that touches the signal operator's hand. She slips through the bureaucracy of grids and protocols. The deewani emerges, distorting the ordered flow of bodies and capital.

Mic Check was exhibited at *The place we do not know is the place we are looking for*, curated by Suvani Suri and Laura McLean, Westspace Gallery x Liquid Architecture x Sarai.

Link to Mic Check:
https://youtu.be/N9CAQEvDhfA



Exhibition view, Westspace Gallery

# Chilika ki Machhli

2024; music video, 8.33min

Composed for an eco-tourism resort's public announcement system, the ambient soundtrack tours through a fishy space-time at Balugaon, Odisha where modernity floats like an unmanaged heap of fish bones and diapers disposed along the coast.

Intervals of conversations caught on an audio recorder by a tourist flit through excerpts of dolphin disappearances, a local deity untouched by cyclones, and fish names translated in Bangla, Odiya, Hindi and English in a fish market.

Chilika ki Machhli features the voices of Tilottama B., Shubham Sahu, Shashikanta Mohanty, Raghav Seth, Sitikanta S, Ajay, Manjeet Gogoi & motorboat tourism corporation.

Developed as part of Shores of Serenity: Edition II, curated by Kaur Chimuk. Supported by Dot Line Space Art Foundation.
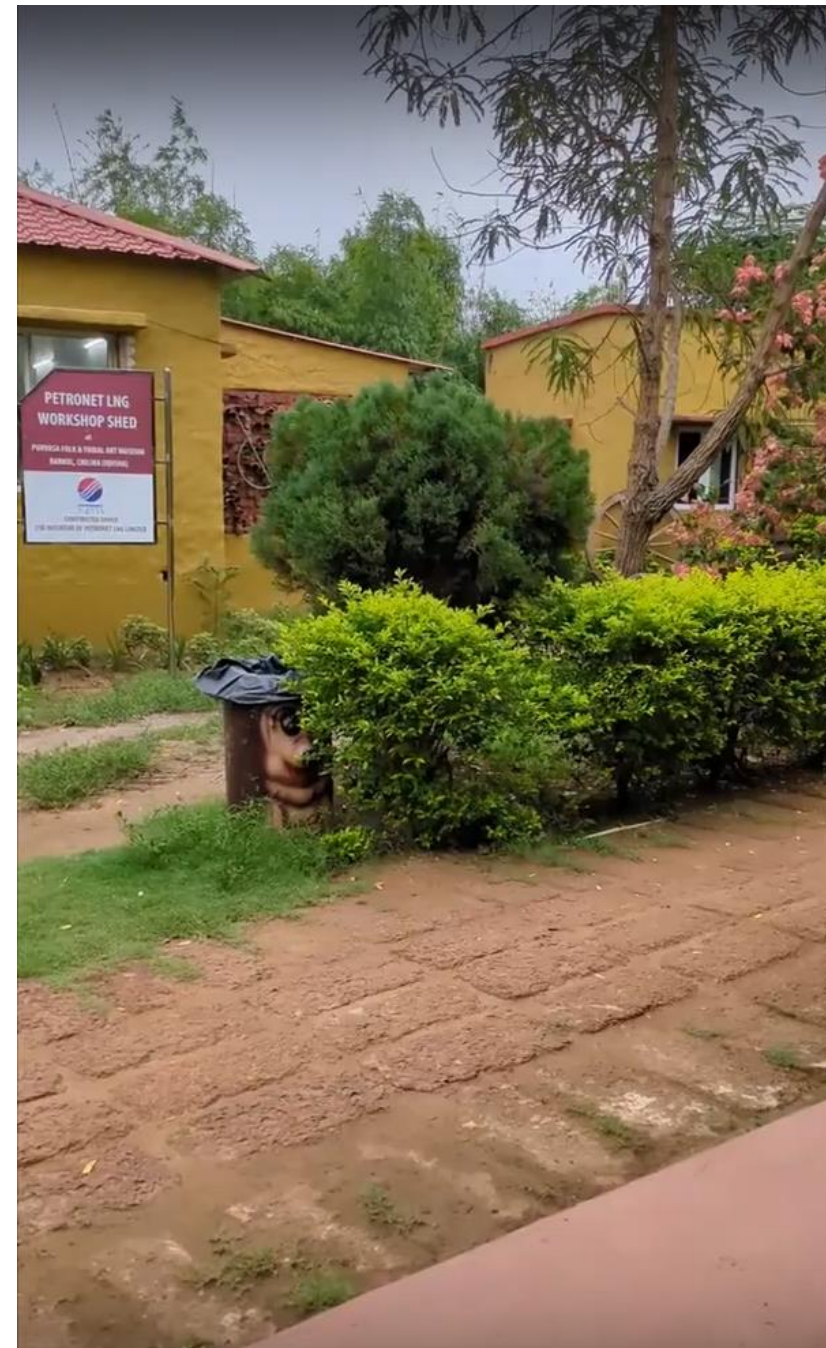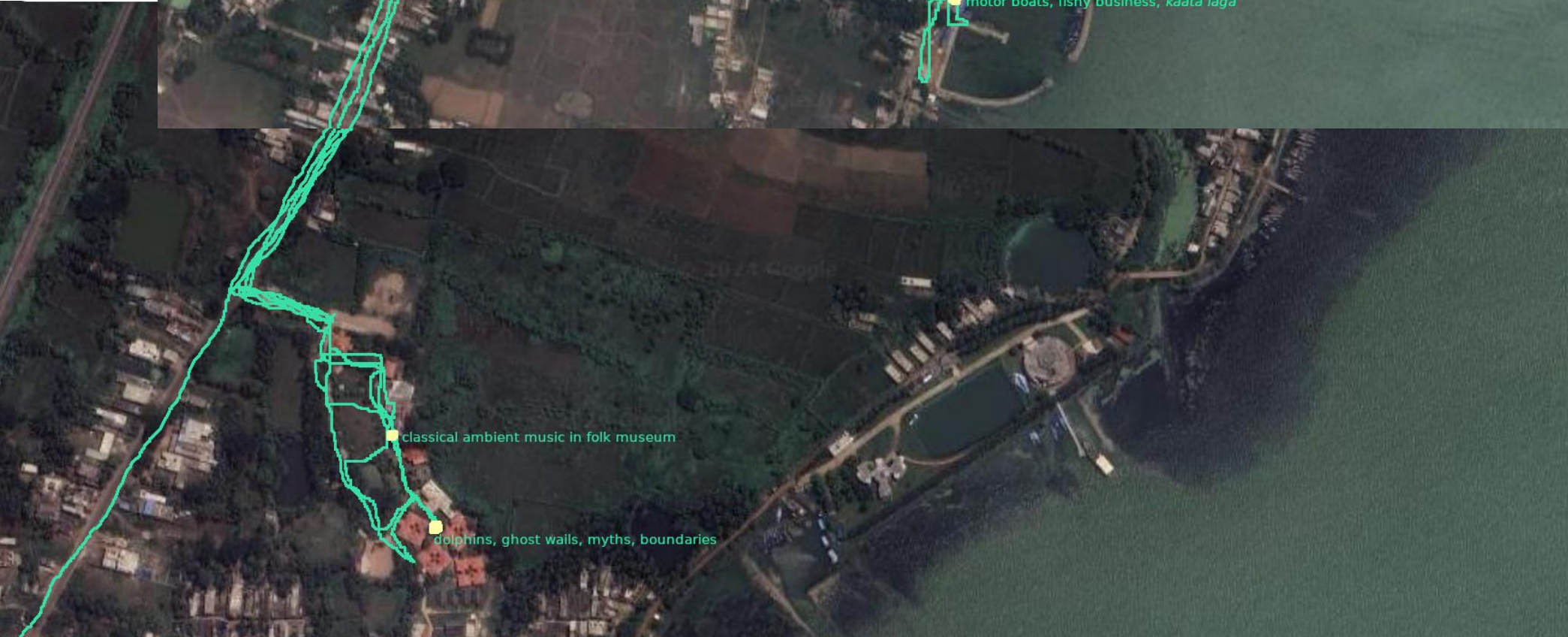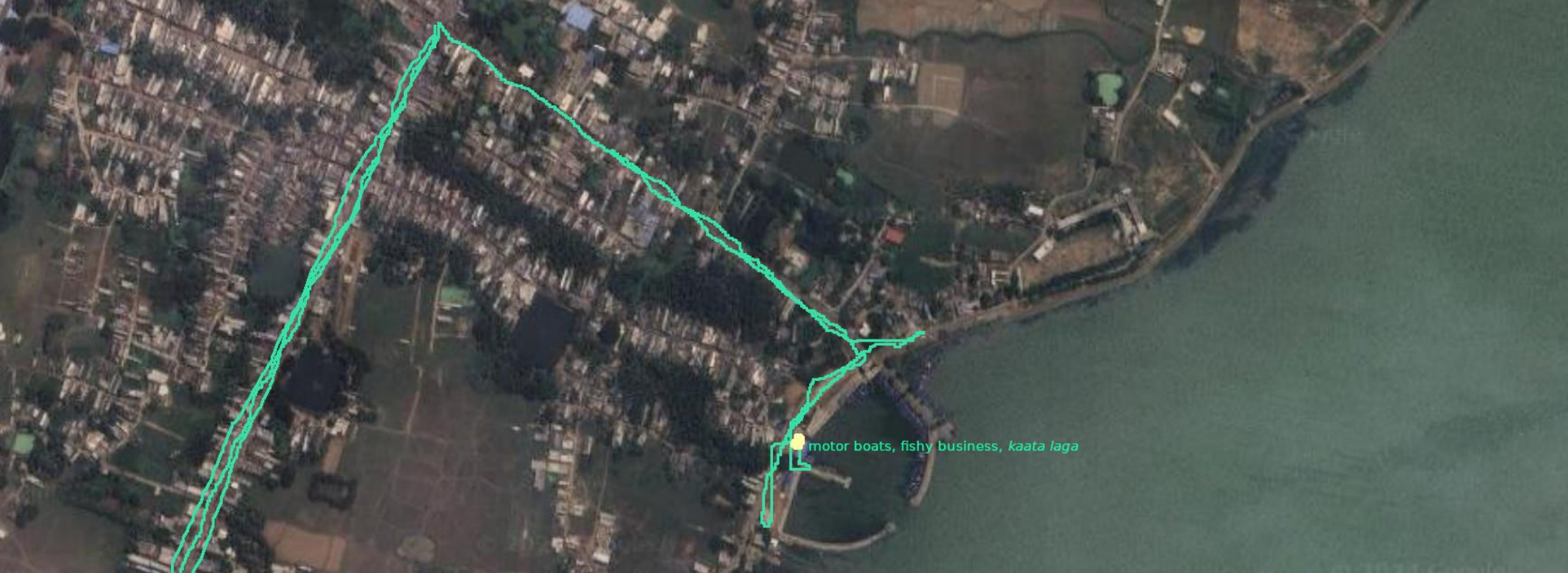
Link to work:
https://youtu.be/bmH8m12Zvnc



Video still

Travel route between eco-tourism resort, folk museum and fish market where stories were recorded.



motor boats, fishy business, *kaata laga*

classical ambient music in folk museum

dolphins, ghost wails, myths, boundaries

Video still

# Listening to Success Stories

2022; video, 19.20 min

*Listening to Success Stories* draws parallels between algorithmic codes, textile and instructional speech to express ideas around productivity encoded in social dynamics of control and protection.

Two hands build recursive patterns with a thread and a hook. A laptop screen plays an episode of a business reality TV show pitching wearable tech products. A voice deviates from giving crochet instructions to knit stories about tech companies that tried to patent hand gestures, a grandmother who built a granite shelf using carpentry tools and a Hindu priest who got pissed off when his morning incantations were interrupted by a washerman doing his work. Conjured as a tutorial video where directive grammar signifies a call to action, *Listening to Success Stories* tunes into the relationship between bodily and technical practices.

Listening to Success Stories was developed as part of Capture All: A Sonic Investigation, published on Disclaimer Journal, by Liquid Architecture, Melbourne and Sarai, Delhi.

Link to work:
https://disclaimer.org.au/contents/capture-all/listening-to-success-stories
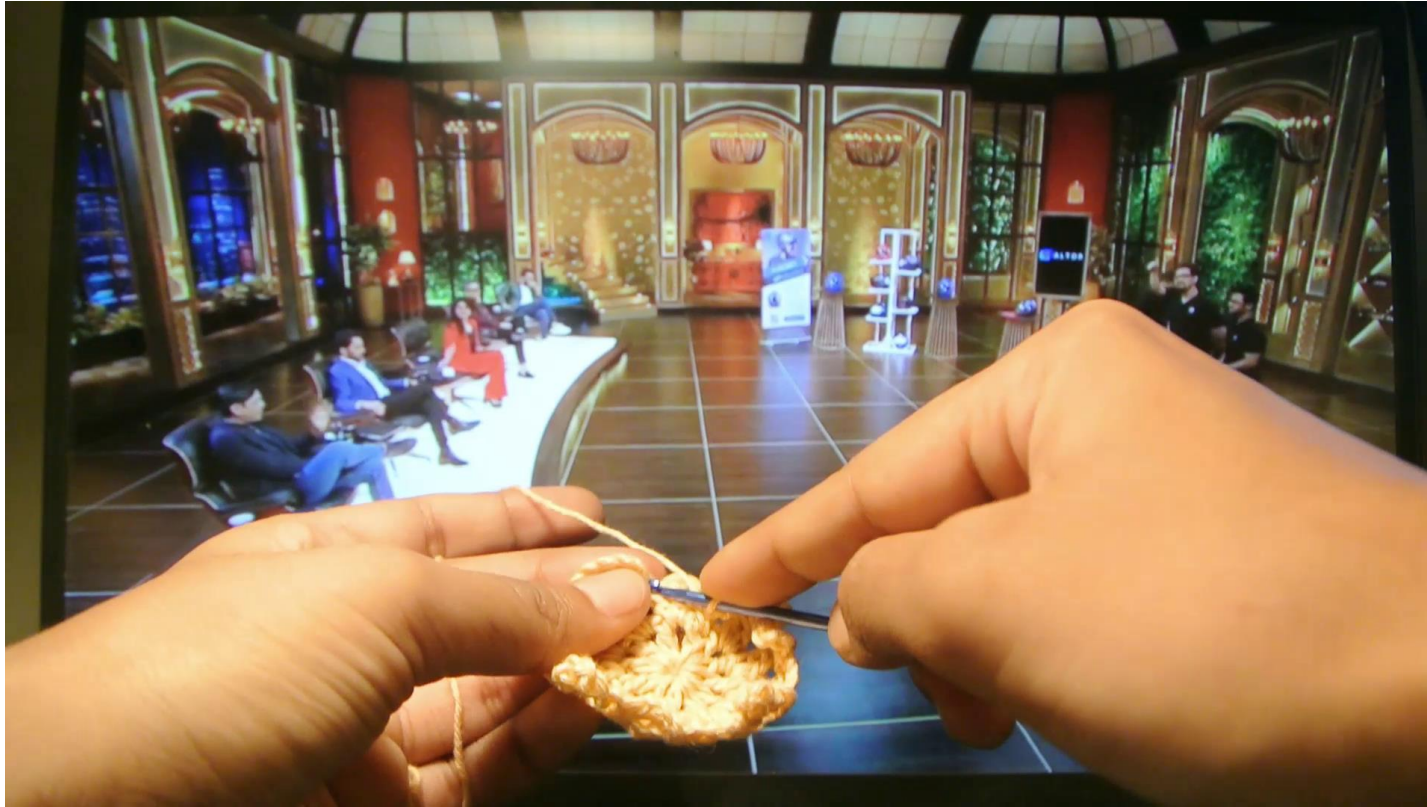
Exhibition views of video installation and sound performance. 'Tenderly Towards
the Tipping Point', at Watermans Art Center, London, 2023.
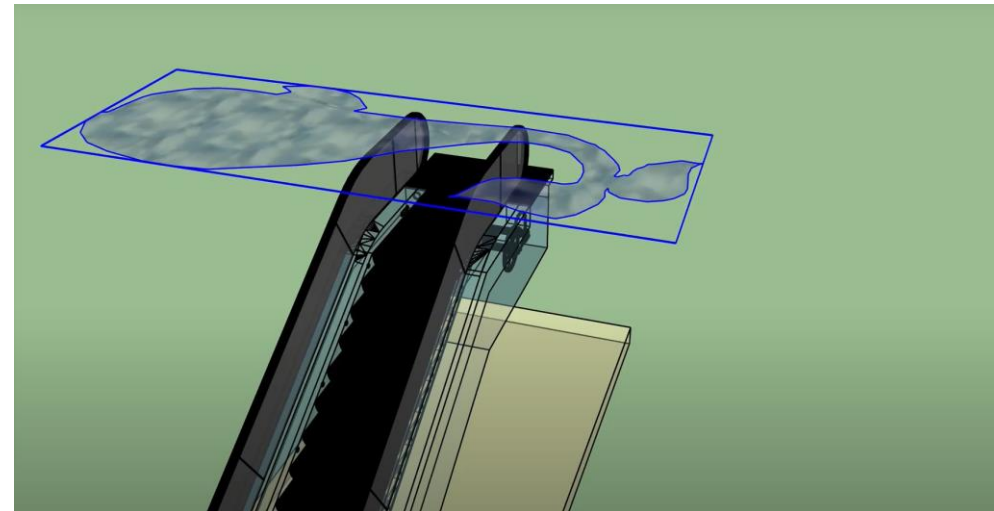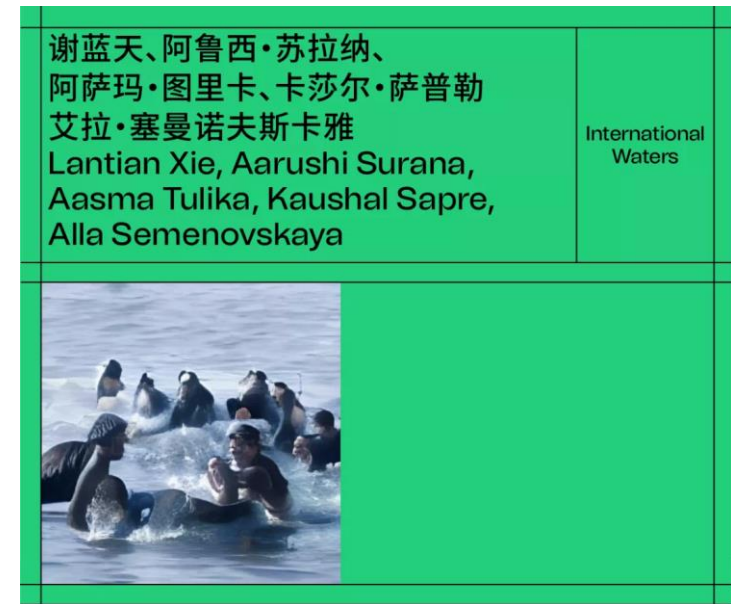
# Placeholder for a Whale's Itch

2022; audio album, plastic balloon, GAN image sticker, sound foam

*Placeholder for a Whale's Itch* is a project by a provisional working group consisting of Aarushi Surana, Aasma Tulika, Alla Semenovskaya, Lantian Xie and Kaushal Sapre. *Placeholder* was imagined as a machine for generating a brawl-crowd of discourse and co-producing formulations in various materialities and affective registers, including texts, speech acts, scenography, soundtracks, listening environments, virtual walkthroughs, simulations, whale conspiracies among others.

The whale comes into the modern consciousness as fuel source, then gets entangled in undersea cables while trying to scratch an itch. It becomes a measure of scale, a placeholder to read and grasp a world full of fishy mathematics. It gets hauled up on a beach in Pakistan and travels with a Hungarian circus. It then becomes a cargo logistical problem. *Placeholder for a Whale's Itch* mixes polyphonic voices, GSM interference noise and muzak to weave propositions around entanglement with the world.

The project has been exhibited at *Pure Reason, Hangzhou Triennale of Fiber Art 2022*, Shanghai and *Heavy Rotation: Infra-Habibi-Technics*, Kunsthalle Bern, 2023.

Link to images, sound album, and installation shots:
https://thisisherefornow.net/placeholder-for-a-whales-itch/



谢蓝天、阿鲁西·苏拉纳、
阿萨玛·图里卡、卡莎尔·萨普勒
艾拉·塞曼诺夫斯卡雅
Lantian Xie, Aarushi Surana,
Aasma Tulika, Kaushal Sapre,
Alla Semenovskaya

International Waters


Simulation video of whale balloon

Exhibition view, soundtracks playing through PA system, Kunsthalle Bern

Exhibition view of whale balloon, Hangzhou Triennale

GAN image sticker
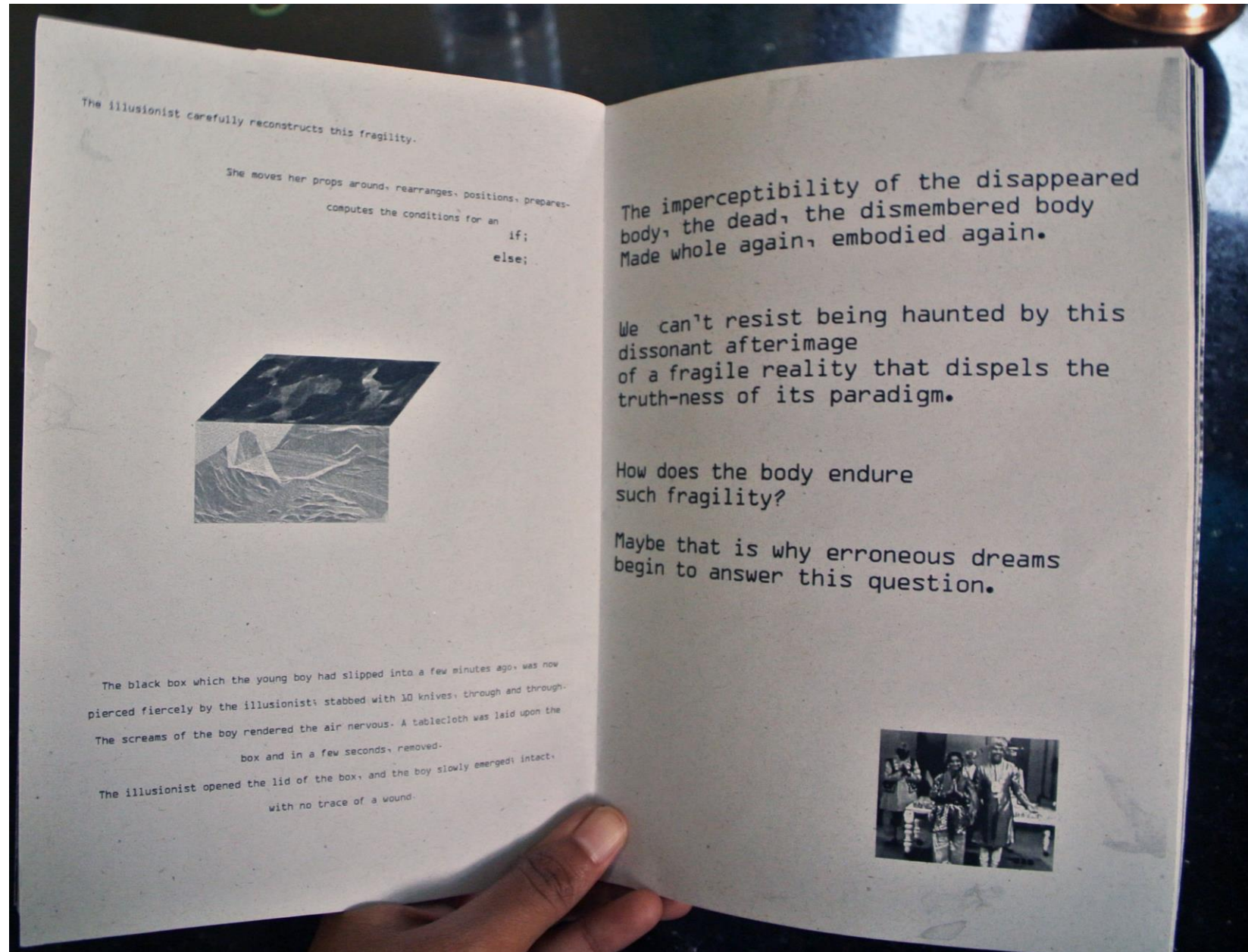
# I Dreamt Before Sleeping

2020; zine

A zine about the appearance and disappearance
of the body through the logic of dreams, magic
tricks and computational errors.

Published as a contribution in the 'Hypnic-
Picnic' issue
of Restricted Fixations

Link to e-copy:
https://thisisherefornow.net/fornow/zineDream
/

I DREAMT BEFORE SLEEPING

I DREAMT OF WISHING FOR A DREAM WHEN I SHUT MY EYES
OF VIOLENT TEETH GRINNING AT ME,
OF TEETH THAT BARRICADE THE TONGUE FROM UTTERNACE
AN UTTERANCE OF CHANGE I LONG TO HEAR.

TO BELIEVE IN A DREAM
IS TO BELIEVE IN A REALITY THAT SHORTS THE CIRCUITS OF
SCIENCE FICTION UTOPIAS.

TO SAY THE LEAST,
IT EXISTS WITHIN THE PARADIGM OF OUR PRESENT,
WHERE VIOLENCE COMMITTED AND FREEDOM FORFEITED
BECOME PIXELS AND SAMPLES AND BITS
NUMBERS, VOTES AND DATA TETHERED TO BODIES.

THE DREAM BEARS WITNESS TO THIS PARADIGM,
AND IT PERTURBS SUCH A PARADIGM
TO DECLARE A REALITY.

Sleep Comfort

THE BEING ENCOUNTERS GLITCHES
                    BETWEEN

        MONUMENTS AND APPARITIONS
    TERRITORIES AND TECTONIC SHIFTS
        TOTEMS AND PHOTO IDS
    MOURNING AND CELEBRATION

WHEN YOU WAKE UP,
YOU WAKE UP TO A SCHIZOPHRENIC EPIPHANY
THAT UTTERS THE WORD - FRAGILITY

I tried to look for CCTV cameras around to see if all this was being recorded. Or did I? Can't remember.

I was hurriedly ushered away from the gate and was told to follow another road which would take me where I wanted. In the end he said- "Google doesn't know. I know. I will show you the **way**. Once upon a time Google would have been right about this route, but now this zone is not open to the public."

Screenshots

# A Hyperlinked Walk

2020; Interactive text-based game

Hyperlinked walk is a virtual walk in Beirut that navigating military zones scattered across the city. When the task of navigating with Google Maps became difficult as it was unable to identify the zones, what remained were conversations with the security personnel at the gates. An inaccurate text-to-image algorithm generates synthetic memories to supplement the gaps in visual recollection.

Link to work:

https://thisisherefornow.net/fornow/walk/index.html



I sat in the smoking room, carefully toggling off the recording function on my phone. Watched the screen recording of my movement on the map and audio recordings of the conversations I had had with the men, wondering how I would remember this walk if I hadn't decided to record it.

| Video | |
|---|---|
| Length | 00:32:51 |
| Frame width | 1080 |
| Frame height | 1920 |
| Data rate | 3311kbps |
| Total bitrate | 3407kbps |
| Frame rate | 55.32 frames/second |

| Audio | |
|---|---|
| Bit rate | 95kbps |
| Channels | 1 (mono) |
| Audio sample rate | 44.100 kHz |

**Want to go through this again?**

or

**try the route out for yourself?**

# Automated transcriptions

2020; 4 min looped video + audio

Automated transcriptions involves two encounters that use Google Live Transcribe to refuse recording a news reporter's speech, and to record the recollection of a legal document.

Encounter #1:
A news reporter's voice blares through youtube on a laptop. An app is transcribing the reporter's speech. A group of people interrupt the transcription, and invoke the algorithm's interpretation of environmental sounds. A turkish song is sung, papers were torn, pigeon calls mimicked and an arabic lullaby is sung towards the speech.

Encounter #2:
A group visits the Lebanese foreign security building to sign a confidential document titled 'conditions of responsibility'. Voices recall the contents of the document, which are recorded using a transcription app. While all the voices described the same document, transcription errors inverted the legal weight of the original document to assume absurd and humorous renditions.

Link to work:
https://thisisherefornow.net/exercises-of-listening-with-automated-transcription/



Encounter #1 performed with friends in Beirut.





Screenshots of transcribed recordings from Encounter #2

# Search: What's Happening?

2020; Twitter feeds, Natural Language Processing library, Python code

Search: What's Happening?' is a procedurally generated series of texts that recount events occurring between 6th and 12th September 2020. Twitter feeds were extracted from a search for what's happening in India, and were used as a database for artificially generated verses. The algorithms were programmed to structure sentences tuned to the syntactic criteria of news reporting language; by laying emphasis on who, what, when, where and why. Each line reflected these prompts and registered them in past tense to freeze an instance of informational chaos fueled by reactionary media.

Link to work:
https://thisisherefornow.net/search-whats-happening/

```
"scene": "What's happening since #time.lowercase#?"

"sentence": [

    "#prop#",

    "#noun# #verb# #prop#",

    "#subjectB.capitalize# report that #adj# #prop# #verb#",

    "#place# is #adj# but #adj#",

    "#noun# #noun# remains #adj#",

    "#prop# became #adj#",

    "#subjectA# and #subjectB# #verb# #adj#",

    "#sentence#\n#sentence#"

]

|
```

Screenshot of natural language processing code used for text generation

What's happening since january?

order happened What
life and I had modern
Life report that immediate What dissappointed
What became native
What
What became wrong

genocide iota remains worried
life and I did Most
life and I asked adamantWhat
Politicians media remains other
life and I were Ofcourse
What became Silent
puppet helped What

What's happening since today?

city were their TRPs
ban and Everyone did same
India is true but MORE

*

What's happening since press conf?

problems and they demolished historic
products became horrified

Screenshots of Instagram posts

Video still



After you finish, remember to wipe off every drop of sweat you've left on the workout machine.

Video still

## WorkOut

2018;  video, 11.30 min

Work Out is a video essay developed with Anna Froelicher, Nisha Vaghani, Monica Martinez, Sibdas Sengupta and Sherry Fung.

An outdoor public gym is turned into a scene where awkward physical exercises on gym equipment unsettle municipal ideas around health and wellness.

Undertaken as part of InOctober School 2018, a workshop conducted by International Network for Contemporary Public Art in Delhi, and Shiv Nadar University.

Link to work:
https://vimeo.com/302437690

# Radio Roohafza

2020 - present
with Kaushal Sapre

radio roohafza is an internet radio station that streams sound from a self-hosted server in Delhi, India.

radio roohafza is hosted on a low cost, low tech web server system developed using open source networking software running on a consumer internet line. Its physical infrastructure consists of old laptops and single board computers that share messy tabletops with a happy meal toy, crochet hooks and a money plant among other things. It heats up during the summer months and goes down with the occasional power cut. You can tell from the sound of its cooling fan if it has got visitors, or perhaps just a botnet sniffing around. This system is perpetually online, and shares its architecture with our home network. The interest is in the capacity of this infrastructure to host the world.
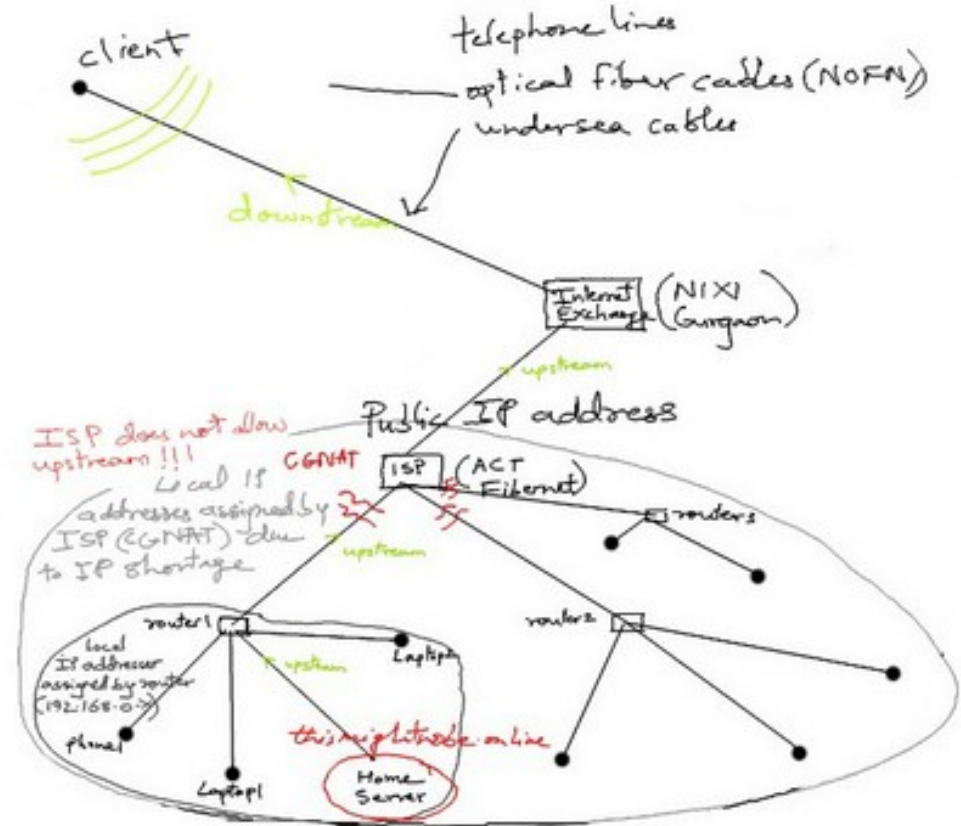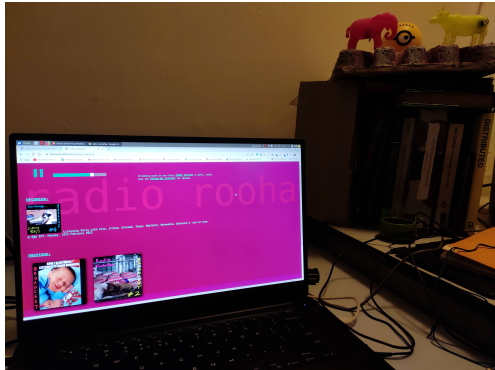




network infrastructure of self-hosted server

## Broadcast #7

HANGING OUT WITH A POEM
5:30pm Beirut time
8pm Delhi time, 31
August 2022

Live broadcast of
reading aloud Etel
Adnan's poem - *The Arab
Apocalypse*.

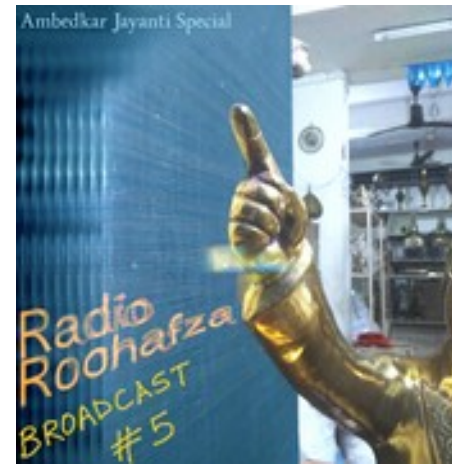With Yamu Wang, Jad Ra,
Kaushal Sapre.
& Aasma Tulika



## Broadcast #6

IMAGE SYNDROME
8 pm IST, 22ⁿᵈ May
2022

Live broadcast of a
public discussion
organised as part of
an open studio by
Mohit Shelare.

With various voices



## Broadcast #5

Ambedkar Jayanti
Special
7 pm IST, 14 April
2022

recordings of
Dr.B.R.Ambedkar's
voice from various
sources on the
internet, broadcast
on the occasion of
Ambedkar Jayanti.

With Mohit Shelare,
Aasma Tulika



## Broadcast #4

LISTENING PARTY
5.30 pm IST, 14th
Feb 2022

tracks produced by
students responding
to prompts for
listening to the
everyday, followed
by a live
discussion.

With the students of
MA visual art, SCCE,
AUD(batch of 2022),
-out-of-line-

## [Broadcast #3](#)

Bedtime Reading
Broadcast
10pm, 12th February
2022

Reading Frantz
Fanon's text about
the revolutionary
potential of the
radio, *This is the
Voice of Algeria!*
over a self-hosted
internet radio
station.



## [Broadcast #2](#)

New Year's Special
9 pm IST, 1st January
2022

A live mixed playlist
of songs, excerpts,
utterances from
voices negotiating
with lines, queues
and waiting.



## [Broadcast #1](#)

Christmas Special
10 pm IST, 25th
December 2021

A mixtape of Youtube
tutorials that teach
you how to mimic the
voice of Narendra
Modi.