

LOSING YOUR CHAINS

SAKSHI GUPTA PRESENTED THREE WORKS AT A SHOW AT GALLERY SKE IN BANGALORE (FROM 16TH APRIL TO 19TH MAY), WHICH WERE titled, in order of appearance, *Nothing is Freedom*, *Freedom is Everything*, and *Everything is You*. The appellations, at first glance, appeared quite trite; they slowly began to reveal their layers though. The works managed to bring together propositions of fragility and inflexibility; in a work like *Freedom is Everything*, the possibility of escape was also suggested.

The first exhibit used locks welded together to create a collection of seven pillows that evocatively suggested sleepless nights spent in a claustrophobic environment. The doors to consciousness were suggested by the second exhibit, a delicately wrought collection of industrial grade nuts, bolts, and bearings, that managed to evoke both traditional doors, so often converted into coffee tables, as well as Tantric mandalas and the worlds they held.

An almost Foucauldian suggestion about the location of freedom within the individual was made in *Everything is You* - it had a bust made out of scrap metal that was punched out at angles. Gupta managed to transform the tired maxim, "Best from Waste", into a slogan that provoked spiritual contemplation. What was particularly impressive was the manner in which she managed to tie together both a sense of ephemeral lightness as well as heavy materiality in her exhibits.

JASON KEITH FERNANDES



Sakshi Gupta. *Freedom is Everything*. Plywood, metal scrap. 12 ft x 7 ft. 2007.