

thread by thread

1st May - 25th June, 2015

My brother is in the army and was once posted on the Glacier. I did not know anything about the challenges he faced during this posting. The exhibition was thus a very personal journey for me to understand his experiences and that of countless soldiers," wrote Rinchen Dolkar in *Stawa* (June 2015) reflecting on the exhibition 'thread by thread' by Baptist Coelho.

The soldier is central to Coelho's exhibition as he attempts to reveal and understand conflict and war through observations and conversations that have been woven into the fabric of the lives of people, whether directly or indirectly affected. Focusing on the soldier fighting the war between India and Pakistan on the Siachen Glacier, Coelho attempts to reveal their challenges and valour, but also the paradox of heroism, confronted by brutal cold and the perils of a high altitude on an uncertain terrain, where more lives are lost due to the weather than fighting.

This exhibition resonated with the reality that is Ladakh, where over one-third of the population is made up of the Indian army. Ladakh Scouts comprises of five battalions and over the years has had a significant contribution to the Indian Army's presence in Siachen. Apart from soldiers the support personnel that work for the army from drivers to cooks and porters is immense.

The army impacts life in Ladakh in many ways and this exhibition certainly made



'The Rose I' by Baptist Coelho



Baptist Coelho explaining his work 'Ribbons I', 2015 to Ambassador P Stobdan and guests during the opening

viewers aware of a different picture of Ladakh from the one usually sold to visitors to the region looking for adventure or searching for inner peace. Exhibitions such as 'thread by thread' are part of LAMO's commitment to continue to bring art that engages with the issues and questions of everyday lives and reflects

on the lived experiences of Ladakhis.

An exhibition by Baptist Coelho and curated by Monisha Ahmed

The exhibition is supported by LAMO, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, India and Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation.

Über Grenzen / On Borders

Human beings have gradually settled over the entire planet. No ocean, no desert, no mountain range has been able to stop them. In the end, they even traveled in space and to the moon. Tirelessly, as if this is their manifest destiny, they have worked on transcending every limitation that nature and its laws

photographers from different countries and across generations showcased their unique perspective on the borders that run through the world today. They explored what borders mean to people and how people shape their lives along borders.

Six photographers from Ladakh