

Concept Note/ Elodie GUIGNARD

Serie 1 :

Reminences, Naogaon, Bangladesh, November 2019

I am a french photographer, graduated with honours from the Arles National Superior School of Photography. I live and work in Paris. My different series are exhibited regularly in France, India, Bangladesh.

This serie « Reminences » is the first chapter of a recent body of work that I made during an artist residency in the ruins of a 200 years old palace, in Bangladesh.

When I came here to Dubolhati, Rajshahi, I wanted to make portraits of women, questioning myself about the relationship of the women of the village to the territory of Dubolhati on which they live. I wanted to talk about the women who lived there in the past, the women who live here today, and create stories of my own with the stories collected.

I walked around the village as soon as I arrived. I made connections with villagers. However, I quickly found myself confronted with a difficulty: the women of the village, for the most part, categorically refused to be photographed and to show their faces.

In order to avoid this constraint, I photographed them from behind, showing only their long loose hair and clothes.

I then superimposed these women from behind in the ruins of the Dubolhati palace. The decoration is inlaid on their backs, in their hair, giving these portraits a ghostly and strange look.

This series is about the women who have, over time, crossed this territory, this village and these ruins.

I asked women in the village to sew these photos on a piece of cut sari, in order to keep their own imprint in an object made with their hands.

This is a collaborative piece that i have created with them.