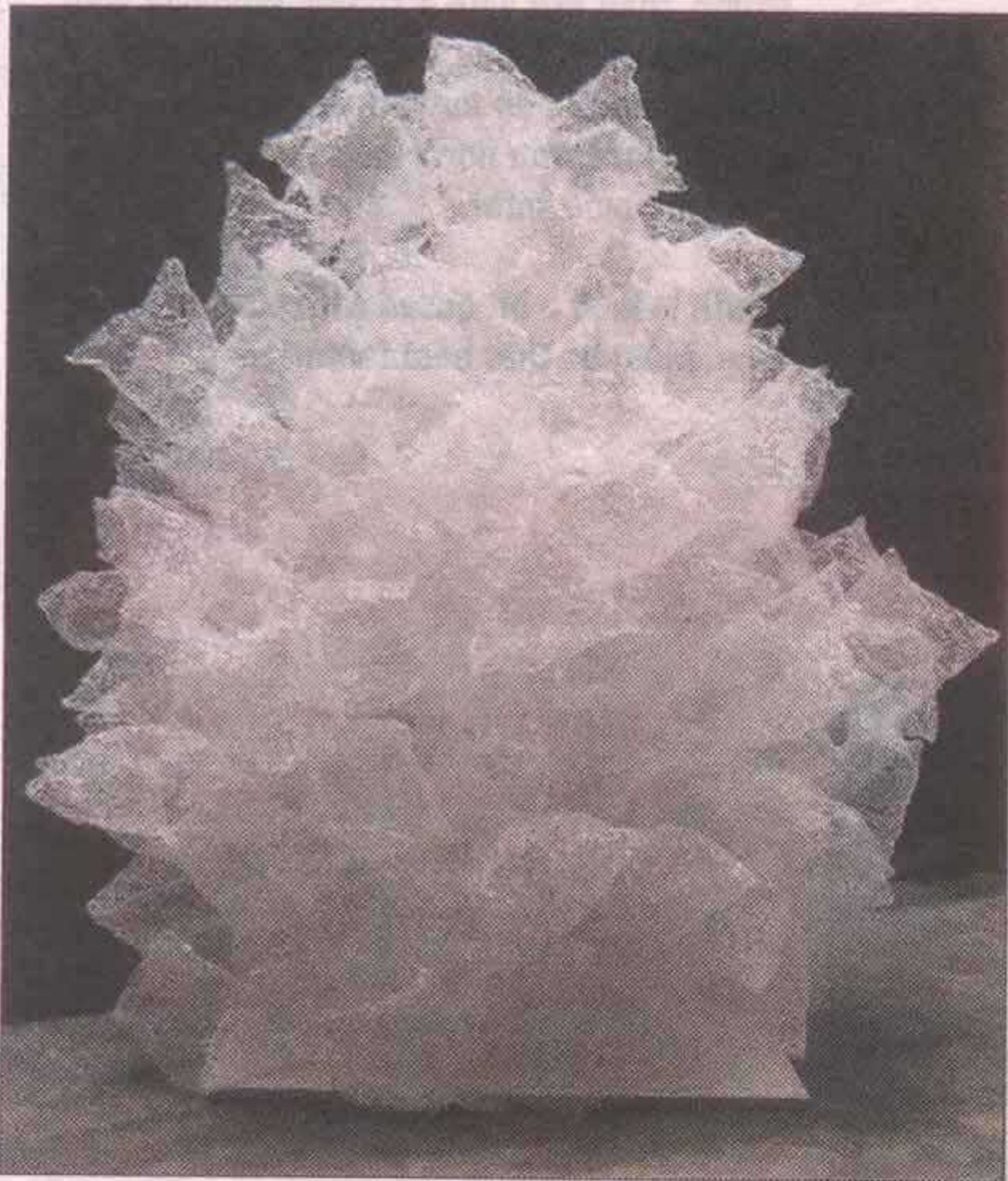


APRIL 19, 2009  
SUNDAY MID DAY

## All artists should try the moonwalk



Untitled, 2009 by Aaditi Joshi

ART: You don't need to experience apophenia — the seeing of patterns or connections in random elements — to connect works by Aaditi Joshi, Nityanand Ojha and Tatheer Daryani. *Moonwalk* curated by Abhay Maskara, and comprising works by the three artists, is a network of felt connections.

*Moonwalk*, the ethereal title sits well. And despite having zilch to do with Michael Jackson it still successfully conjures up an image of these young artists doing Jackson's signature move. The light-hearted image of the artists gracefully moonwalking

across the media of their choice is preferred over them walking and jabbing around like Egyptians.

Since her first solo a couple of years ago, we have not heard very much from Joshi. With *Moonwalk*, she returns to choosing that ubiquitous plastic bag. In a sequence of untitled sculptural works Joshi provokes and fuses aplastic bags to create dystopian urban shrubbery. In the video *Suffocation*, Joshi can be seen almost-asphyxiating herself with a plastic bag. Spot on in the unease it causes under the collar, this very moving video could also be read as a perverse DIY snuff movie.

# WEEK AHEAD

Artists who gracefully moonwalk across media, a documentary on the reluctant Mahasweta Devi and some haunting Russian cinema. Gitanjali Dang reviews items likely to catch your eye and hold your attention next week

In the press release, Ojha's *Abandoned Love* is noted as, "... opening up a diametrical plan of thought by decorating it (bone) with consumerist fetish for oxidised women's jewellery..." Yikes!

Ojha's title seems to suggest a diametrically different reading of the 15 foot-bone installation suspended from the ceiling. And although multiple interpretations are the norm, one favours Ojha's reading of the installation as an earthy dialogue with dissipating love and longing.

Finally. Daryani, as yet a student at the MS University, Baroda, is a wonderful find. Although the entire gamut of bodily fluids and secretions — from blood to piss and from

puke thorough sweat — has been mobilised repeatedly by artists, Daryani's untitled installations coalesce blood and mercury to create a lethal concoction.

Though there isn't much of a conceptual thread holding the three artists together, all the works show tremendous character. At a time when offputting works travel unheard of distances, straight-backed character is as hardy a thread as any to have.

***Moonwalk* at Warehouse on 3rd Pasta, 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba till May 10. Tuesday to Sunday, 11 am to 7 pm. For details call — 2202-3056**