



ZAKIR HUSSAIN AND SHANKAR MAHADEVAN IN
CONCERT AT SHANMUKHANANDA HALL, 7 PM

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The Nature of the Beast

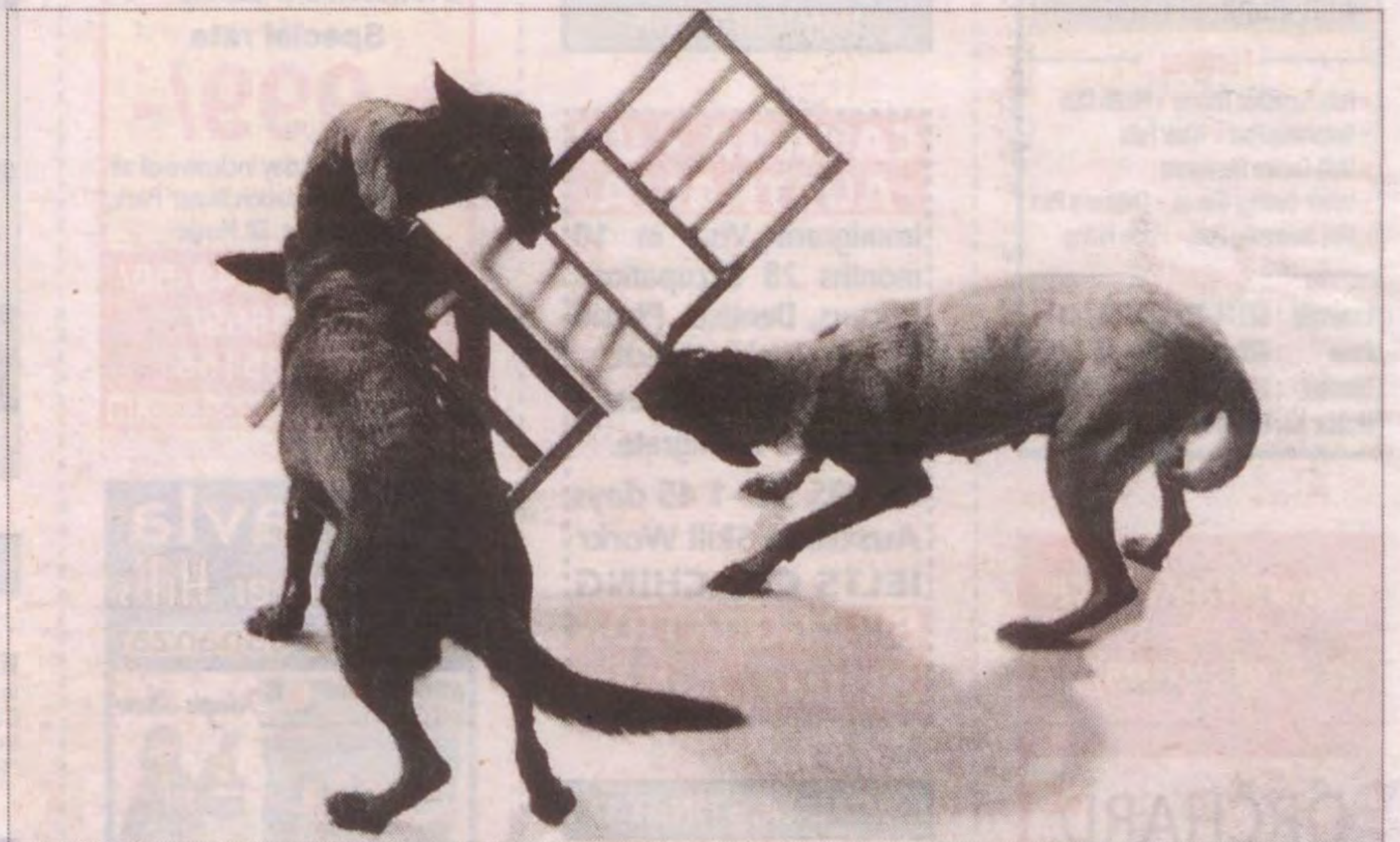


A quirky Belgian is using 16mm to showcase our awkward relationship with animals in the domestic realm

Vishwas.Kulkarni
@timesgroup.com

Film and video are usually expected to be dynamic agents that thrust (you) into a plot, story, narrative. Even the agent that assists them has a futuristic twang: the projector. In doing so we get movies, soap operas, documentaries, and new reels that loop endlessly in our living rooms, offering us dreamlike repetitive sneak peeks of urban nightmares, like the Aarushi Talwar case for example. The advantage of such 'media assault' is that we are now more attuned, despite the unintended agency, to watch filmic and video art. *The Trophy* by Ruben Bellinkx, an artist from Belgium, is an ode to the hypnotic appeal of 16mm as well as a catalyst that instigates us to watch what we see, to see what we watch.

Seven projected film reels, all stuck in a loop, present us with varied realities: dogs fight over a chair and rip it to shreds; four tortoises hoist the four legs of a table and make it crawl on the floor, thus playing with the idea of movement and inertia in a medium inextricably linked to kinetics. You could be the cheeky hare and skitter to what is truly the prize catch here: a dual projection that uses the motif of a 'game trophy', the eponym of the exhibit. In a farm in Netherlands, Mr Bellinkx has erected the set



of a room, from a hole in which a reindeer sticks its head out. Until of course you trace the faint inconveniences of it being alive. Turn around and you'll see the same reindeer standing in a dark room, neck down: its head is poking onto the other side through a gap.

Aside from our civilization's blighted relationship with nature and animal life, *The Trophy* is also a polished attempt at toying with our expectations of the moving

image, its applications in a curatorial space, and how slow motion is indeed the way forward, if you stop to think that you can't believe in everything you see. Whether it's the quaint 8mm yarn of happy memories in NRI hell or the sleazy MMS scandal on YouTube which turns you on at the small hours.

The Trophy by Ruben Bellinkx is showing at The Warehouse, 6/7, 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba