Endeavour no. 7: Unbraiding

Sogol Mabadi

To write this for you is both easy and difficult. There's something you need to know but it's not the voice that should speak of it, nor logic that can contain it.

She is both subject and object, though a ritual performed in solitude before you meet means that she is elusive. She is shrouded by braided hair: a dark lustrous substance that is sensual, yet strangely abject and other. Is it a veil of sorts or a manifestation of vulnerability? Some would say the veil is about being unseen. This veil, though, seems to suggest closeness, not remoteness. It permits an uncertain intimacy through her.

She is a physical being that resides in the world and in your imagination. You, however, are unknown to her: a stranger she wants to be with but who will also remain unseen. So, think of yourself as a universal being rather than an individual. Trust the intelligence your body has. Dare to trust your intuition here.

Be with her for a moment.

This 'endeavour' needs to be experienced: sensed and touched, or tasted, some might say. In this exchange you enter a space of simultaneous proximity and distance: a shared space of intimacy. You are close to her. You cannot see her fully but through a screen of braids you might glimpse each other. You connect without merging. You communicate without dialogue. For a moment in this space, sense that thing or being within you that is both essential and contingent; infinite and temporal.

What does it mean to give oneself over to another like this - to experience desire and longing – to find comfort yet risk withdrawal and rejection? Trust her. Be with her. Stay with her. Be still for a moment.

But know that inevitably you will leave her.

© Susan Brind
February 2013

Susan Brind is an artist and academic, based in Glasgow.

Sogol Mabadi (b.1985 Tehran) grew up in Sweden and moved to London in 2005. She has a Foundation Diploma from Kensington & Chelsea College and a BA(Hons) from The Glasgow School of Art, graduating in 2010 and receiving the Bram Stoker award for best imaginative work in the GSA degree show that year. Her work and performances have been shown extensively in Glasgow and Edinburgh since that time, including 'Arches Live'-The Arches, Glasgow (2011); 'State of Play-1min Manifestos'- National Galleries Edinburgh (2011); 'Ok-yuh-pahy' Glasgow International Ext. Programme-Pipe Factory, Glasgow (2012); and most recently 'Endeavour no.6' Studio 41, Glasgow (2013). For more information see www.sogolmabadi.com <http://www.sogolmabadi.com/>

Endeavour no. 7: Unbraiding
New performance by Sogol Mabadi

The Royal Scottish Academy, National Galleries of Scotland

The Society of Scottish Artists Annual 2013.

Thursday - Sunday 2pm-5pm
01 March - 24 March 2013