



DREAM PILLOW - 4, ANAGAMA FIRED, 12" DIA.

dreams

SHANTI PILLAI lucid dreaming in Havana, taking a look at **ADIL WRITER'S** work.

What are dreams? Dreams are the sky-lit studios where we sketch the fluid outlines of the world as we might render it if we were freed from the laws of physics and biology which we must obey, and from the shackles of convention and morality to which we more or less surrender ourselves. Dreams are the archives where we rifle through the images, languages, and sensations of our everyday reality and creatively reorganize our perceptions at the service of non-ordinary logics we do not even know we have. Suddenly this goes with that, this action leads to that consequence, this color compliments that one, and it all makes sense in a new way.

Artists and writers are dreamers for sure, blessed and cursed people who give birth to forms which might otherwise remain hidden below the psyche's surface. Adil Writer was born into this tribe a while ago and has spent the last several years dancing around the fire of this identity to various rhythms. Now it seems that he has passed through his rite du passage and is ready to announce to the world and to himself that he is a full-time, wholly committed dreamer.

Dreams tend to be associated with lofty aspirations but while Writer does reference his private sense of spirituality without inhibition, it is less about exalting and more about giving us access to the shadowed textures and crystalline hues of his contradictory and highly postmodern consciousness. He lets us feel the steam rising from the hot asphalt of a Mumbai street after a light unexpected rain, just as he bathes us in the unsettlingly pure, white light of Auroville's Matrimandir meditation chamber. What might seem a cherub's visage at a glance suddenly reveals itself as anointed with a swash of scarlet kumkum. And unlikely casual encounters foment conversations of existential import, as in when Sri Aurobindo parlays with Led Zeppelin.

If anything is to characterize this enticingly tactile cacophony it is one word: promiscuous. With abandon, Writer declares his polyamorous right to love architecture, sculpture, photography, and painting equally alongside the ceramic work with which he seemed monogamously involved for so long. There is an order to his multiplicitous sentiments, however; the invitation to his creative orgy is engraved with texts revealed to him by friends and associates who have become playmates in his deliciously sensuous pursuits.



DREAM PILLOW - 1, WOOD - FIRED, 13" DIA.

DREAM PILLOW - 2, WOOD - FIRED, 14" DIA.



DREAM PILLOW - 3, WOOD - FIRED, 13" DIA.



TREASURE BOX OF DREAMS, ANAGAMA FIRED, 4 1/2" X 4 1/2" .



What is one to make of the consorting of vertical lines and curvaceous celadon, of the matchmaking between found objects and fanciful, functionless forms. The key to this collection is a simple answer: make of it what you wish or nothing at all. The geographies of this imagination have no maps and Writer liberates one to navigate at will. If there is a destination on the horizon, it is nothing more than to realize that you might not have to buy the Stairway to Heaven if you are willing to barter it for a dream.

Shanti Pillai, Havana, August 2008.

Shanti Pillai is an Indian-American performance artist, dancer, and academic who lives and works in New York, Cuba, and South India. She holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from New York University where she worked under the direction of Richard Schechner. She is currently a Guest Professor in Global Studies at Sarah Lawrence College, where she teaches courses about globalization, identity and performance.



ADIL WRITER

Mandala Pottery, Dana, Auroville - 605101, Tamil Nadu, India
Tel: +91-413-2622685 pottery, 2622724 residence
www.adilwriter.com, adil@auroville.org.in