

The Quiet Weight of Voices

A new work by Amol K. Patil continues the artist's long-standing engagement with social justice and the amplification of Dalit voices—voices that are often unwelcome or deliberately silenced. Drawing on the history and legacy of Dalit resistance in India, Patil reflects on the persistence of injustice across contexts, revealing how mechanisms of exclusion are continually reproduced.

While rooted in the Dalit experience, the work is also materially and conceptually embedded in the landscape of Trenčín. At its core are questions—engraved on stones collected locally—that carry the weight of both a complaint and a hesitation: questions we may no longer be willing to ask. *“Why does equality sound different in every country?” “Is democracy participation, or observation?”* Their meanings shift across histories and positions, echoing differently depending on who speaks and who is heard.

Rather than offering resolution, Patil opens a space of complexity shaped by multiple perspectives and lived experiences. Emerging from Dalit histories, these questions resonate with broader, recurring patterns of marginalization and violence—intersecting with other forms of exclusion, including those structured by gender and the exploitation of the earth.

Presented in the public space of the council chamber of Trenčín City Hall, the work unfolds through a tension between materialities: the apparent silence and weight of stone, and the instability of spoken language—words that circulate, shift in meaning, and vary in force. This tension is activated through the auditory dimension of the work, including a performance by Yogesh Barve, where the voice becomes a carrier of urgency, fragility, and resistance. Terms such as “justice” or “equality,” often emptied of resonance, regain weight when inscribed in matter and rearticulated through sound.

After the exhibition, selected stones will be redistributed among local organizations, allowing the work to extend beyond the institutional frame. Circulating as questions rather than statements, it remains open—pointing to both the repetition of exclusion and the possibility of its interruption.