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SPOTLIGHT: VIRGINIE SOMMET

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Virginie Sommet : FOOD GODDESS





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Virginie Sommet with LAXMI in her studio.



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Left to Right: Annapurna Medallion, Annapurna & Shiva, Food Goddess



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Virginie Sommet ANNAPURNA MEDALLION Composition: Collage of Indian candies with the portrait of Annapurna(Hindu Goddess) in resin. Meditation and concentration process during the collage. The Silver ones are real silver and taste very good. Annapurna is the goddess of nourishment on every level, Anna Meaning food and grains. Purna meaning full, complete and perfect.

At the age of twenty-one, poking around the flea markets of Paris, Virginie Sommet says she was just “starting to become a freak.” As she puts it, “I love to be where I’m not supposed to be,” and when she stumbled upon bindis – her eventual trademark – at these outdoor markets, they led to a passion for Indian culture which emerges in her series of food collages.

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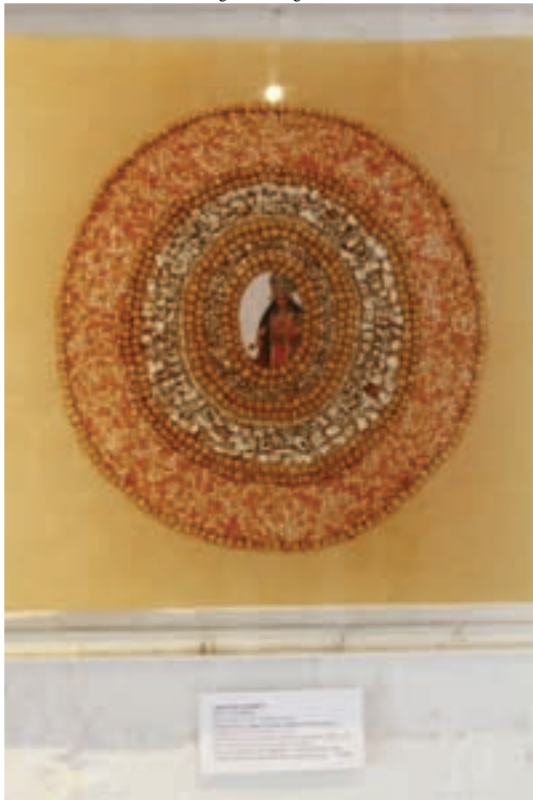
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Virginie Sommet FOOD GODDESS Composition: Collage of Indian candies with the bust of Annapurna(Hindu Goddess) in resin. Meditation and concentration process during the collage. The Silver ones are real silver and taste very good. She is the goddess who inspires us to nourish others. Her wisdom teaches us that spiritual gifts about giving...

At the age of twenty-one, poking around the flea markets of Paris, Virginie Sommet says she was just “starting to become a freak.” As she puts it, “I love to be where I’m not supposed to be,” and when she stumbled upon bindis – her eventual trademark – at these outdoor markets, they led to a passion for Indian culture which emerges in her series of food collages.

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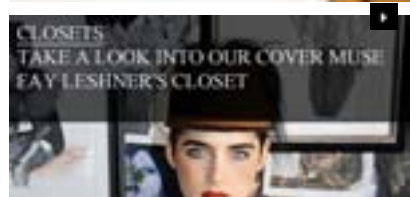
Virginie Sommet: ANNAPURNA MEDALLION

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Annapurna & Shiva Composition: collage of Indian candies with portrait of Annapurna cooking for her husband, Shiva. The collage is in resin. Meditation and concentration process during the collage. The silver ones are real silver and taste very good. The renunciation she teaches allows us to have equanimity in every circumstance of life. As you are feed from attachment to selfish considerations, we experience joy. Her wisdom teaches us that spirituality is about giving.

At the age of twenty-one, poking around the flea markets of Paris, Virginie Sommet says she was just “starting to become a freak.” As she puts it, “I love to be where I’m not supposed to be,” and when she stumbled upon bindis – her eventual trademark – at these outdoor markets, they led to a passion for Indian culture which emerges in her series of food collages.



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Virginie Sommet LAXMI What you see are Indian candies glued one by one (for 100 hours). I bought them in Jackson Heights home to a large Hindu community. They were not modified on the canvas. The silver ones are Chandan Silver (betels nuts, fennel seeds, silver foil, saccharin sodium). The green and red ones are Green Mukuas (sugar coated fennel, sugar coated till menthol). The small clay statue is LAXMI or LAKSHMI (Hinduism) often depicted setting on a lotus blossom, one of the attributes of the Asian Gods. Laxmi is the spouse of Vishnu. She is the goddess of fortune as well as (Secondarily) luck, beauty and fertility. Try pronouncing Laxmi!

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After discovering silver-coated candies at her regular Indian supermarket up in Queens’ Jackson Heights neighborhood, Virginie began arranging them along with fennel on canvas in shrine-like arrangements, piece by piece. In the center of each piece is an image of the Indian goddess Anapurna, whose name literally translates to “food” and “full.” These painstakingly detailed and time-consuming works function as meditation for her, as she abstains from e-mail, phone calls and texts while she completes each one. The pieces are “really for New Yorkers,” Virginie says. “In New York, we’re so busy, ADD, all over the place. When you have a piece like this on your wall...you come down.”



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One Response to “Spotlight: Virginie Sommet”

Fariha Róisín April 26th, 2011 at 10:31 am

LOVE!
Virginie, I need one of these.

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