

# The Himalayan

## Behind reality

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KATHMANDU: Emma Ponsart, a Fine Art student from France, tries to question the general perceptions and the very origin of our existence. Remanences — Worlds in Essence, the latest exhibition of Ponsart, being held at the Kathmandu Contemporary Arts Centre (KCAC), Jhamsikhel is yet another experiment into understanding the world created by our perceptions that are vital in shaping our inner world.

Ponsart always includes her audience in her experiments and on March 14 people from different walks of life took part in her Protocole 108. Sitting in a circle in silence for some time, she asked everyone to say words or sounds that are important in their life. Words like humanity, friendship, confidence, silence, space and load-shedding were heard from the group. Then Ponsart asked everyone to spin 108 times followed by 108 seconds of rest to be taken lying down. This experiment according to the artist is about “making people more conscious about life”. “While spinning for 108 times, you feel yourself in space and this helps you feel the element. Through this experiment, I want to move the perceptions of people,” she explained. She had conducted this experiment on the terrace of the building. “Here one can remain more connected with the sky as well as the floor,” she said about her choice of venue.

One of the audience who went through Protocole 108, Valerie Billot found the whole experiment interesting as “this is not something we do everyday”. She added, “I really appreciated the silence and the whole experience was very inspirational. It was like an encounter between people and element.”

Ponsart, who is in Nepal on a six-month residency in partnership with the Alliance Francaise, Kathmandu, also took on a journey after she found photographs of Nepal taken some 20 years ago by her father. The clippings of her journey and those photographs are also on display as installation at KCAC.

Right next to the concentric circles of the photographs lie broken pieces of mirror scattered on the floor. And at the centre of this installation, again the photographs are projected by a projector. Ponsart said the broken mirrors represent reality and she wants people to “see beyond their perceptions and see what is behind the realities of life”.

Three different videos of her journey are also screened at the venue.

The installations will be exhibited till March 20.