

*When I think about 'interventions', I think of something quick, sudden, something that makes you turn your head and re-order the way you're viewing a situation. But the more I worked on making these interventions for the National Review of Live Art 07, the more I wanted to do something that was the very opposite of 'quick'. The most radical and necessary intervention I could imagine was one that opened up a place for slowing down, for being still and encountering the world on an equal footing, in the present moment.*

This is what I will attempt to create by holding silence in my body from Friday morning until Sunday evening.

But there is another type of present: an offering, the notion of giving something up without exchange or price. And in the most beautifully ordinary way, by allowing something outside to enter your world, to accept a gift is to begin a conversation.

These interventions are conversations. Without words, I invite you to accept my gifts as the opening of new dialogues.

By their very nature, interventions take the form of questions, providing a hiatus in the normal pattern of a day or situation. The exact nature of this question depends on the way you encounter the intervention – the space and time at which you and the intervention intersect.

These interventions are questions, embodied in my evolving presence over three days.

*As the year passed from 2006 to 2007, I was handed a New Year's card with wishes written by friends. One of my closest friends had written: 'You will want nothing, give everything, and sleep happy at the end of each day'. I felt like I was coming home, I felt happy.*

These interventions are also homes.

Like a good museum or a long term practice, I hope the interventions will provide a type of pause, a point of familiarity in a place of journeys. You'll find them, here and there, and occasionally you'll find me. And I hope that in some way each brings you a space where you can be yourself, where you can find a new way to glance at the world, and maybe make a wish for someone else.

These interventions are gifts.

## **small gifts** a series of interventions by rajni shah programme notes

**small gifts** was created by Rajni Shah for the National Review of Live Art 07

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