

MATERIAL GIRL
Banerjee's *Out Of*
Hollowness juxtaposes the
organic with the synthetic

ART

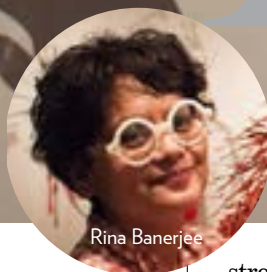
Feminine mystique 2.0

In her latest exhibit at the ongoing Venice Biennale, artist RINA BANERJEE frees scrapbooking and collaging from their domestic confines and uses fantasy to update the modern feminine identity, finds PRACHI JOSHI

Lush purple silk embellished with mirrors, peacock feathers, porcupine needles and a porcelain Frozen Charlotte doll head adds the requisite shock and awe to artist Rina Banerjee's latest work, "*Women did do this...*". Of the 120 artists at the International Art Exhibition, Viva Arte Viva curated by Christine Macel, Kolkata born and New York-based Banerjee is one of the only artists of Indian-origin. This is her second stint at the Venice Biennale, since 2013. Her work brings together her diasporic experience where tropical gardens merge with mon-

strous steelscapes, as she creates a new identity of the feminine mystique. According to this artist, her art is a combination of camouflage and creation that reveals a multiplicity of truths, she says, "Textiles and shell offer the pleasure of being a cover or cloak; it's the transcending nature of hiding under something to become something that's honest and real." ■

"Collage and assembly are also possible reminders of our fragmented real selves"
— RINA BANERJEE



Rina Banerjee

