







A wooden bench is shown in a park-like setting. A plaque is mounted on the backrest of the bench. The plaque contains the name 'Gordon Calvert', the phrase 'Sit and ponder.', and a quote: 'If a job's worth doing, it is worth doing well.' The background is slightly out of focus, showing a green lawn, trees, and a building in the distance.

Gordon Calvert

Sit and ponder.

“If a job’s worth doing,  
it is worth doing well.”



This document is a collection of self-portraits that have found a voice through the format of this book. They span a period of 10 years as though a document of time, however for me it is part of an unending collection and time is irrelevant. The self-portraits are not poised or staged in the formal sense of photographic self-portraits. The attention of the camera lens is directly on me in ways that conceal my identity as an artist, revealing perhaps other aspects of my female identity. Indeed there is a narcissist prism nurturing the moments when the camera, I , me and myself become unified. The camera is not an exterior entity but joins the entourage of my personal grooming device.

The images are an experiment with permutations and combinations centred around the sacred Indian number of 108.

In Indian thought 108 was considered a sacred number as much of Indian philosophy is preoccupied with sacred geometry. 108 is therefore a recurring number of great significance throughout ancient India. 108 plus one is the number of seeds or beads in the sacred rudraksha mala. This is meant to represent the 108 Upanishads. Some say this number signifies the coming together of the jiva or being and the parmatma or supreme power. The Sri Yantra, which is an interlinking of nine triangles and symbolises masculine and feminine energies and in turn the universe's creative energies, encompasses 108 points. When the Goddess Sati burned herself to ashes in anger at her father insulting her husband, Lord Shiva, the Destroyer carried her body over the earth. Where the parts of her body fell to earth they are said to have created 108 shakti peethas or places of great spiritual potency where shrines. These 108 destinations still house shrines and are considered holy pilgrimage destinations.

When it comes to sacred names of the gods and goddesses, many of them such as Lord Shiva, the Goddess Ganga have a 108 sacred appellations. It is said that those who chant these 108 names of Lord Shiva will be bestowed with blessings. 108 is also considered a significant number in other Eastern philosophies such as Jainism and Buddhist thought, with Tibetan Buddhist malas having 108 beads and the number recurs throughout Buddhist stories, as well

Mandakini Devi



# 108 PORTRAITS | ME MYSELF

2007 - 2017



















































































































































