

## Dushume – Gaumukh/ Cow’s Mouth

A harsh bass and deep noise experimental sound installation ‘*Gaumukh/ Cow’s Mouth*’ has been developed in response to an 18th Century document “Diary kept by an officer serving in India under one Colonel Morgan” part of the extensive Copped Hall collection held by the Essex Record Office.

The excerpt below was of particular interest to the artist and inspired the mood and scene of the sound work:

*“...I left Futtygur yesterday in my way towards Calcutta. I am now about twelve hundred miles from that city. The method of travelling generally used is by water in a large commodious boat called a Budgerow, the accommodations are always good, but in some you are as comfortable as you are on land. The boat is decked (mine is rowed by eight men) my apartments are in the stern. The present one is very small it is the only one I could procure, but it is large enough to hold any bed, table and chair, with all my trunks. In the fore part is a good cookroom. It draws only two feet and a half of water was it to draw any more I could not be able to go, as at this season the Ganges is very shallow in many places. On each side for some miles (indeed as far as the eye can reach) is nothing but a sandy desert, the whole of this in the rains is I am informed entirely covered with water. About 100 or two hundred miles above Futtygur the Ganges is greatly contracted between the hills. This called the Cow’s Mouth, here pilgrimages are made by the Hindoos at a place called Nagracut. It is said that this bounded the conquests of Alexander, and that he here left an image of his wife Noshaba which the Brahmins have converted into a Deity of the Hindoos. A great fair is kept there once in twelve years, this happens to be the year.”*



‘**Gaumukh/ Cow’s Mouth**’ is very much about connections and how things tie together. It is important that Copped Hall addresses its relationship to past exploits in the colonial era, and this work interrogates this narrative. In the excerpt above, the officer approaches the Gangotri glacier, where the glacial terminus resembles a cow’s mouth and is also a site for Hindu Pilgrims known as Gaumukh (the mouth of the cow). The noisy materials provide an evocative response to the above paragraph. A poetic interpretation ensues, encompassing uncompromising experimental sounds, murmurs, howls, deep noise and callous harsh bass. The studio work conjures a slow-moving barge known as the budgerow that, in the past, sluggishly transported goods across Northern India, largely on the river Ganges.

It is important to acknowledge past history, learn from its mistakes, and make the Copped Hall estate future proof in a way that seeks to make amends by addressing former times in its new reincarnation, as it rises from its dereliction.

Keywords: #Ganges #Gaumukh #Nagarkot #Gomukh #Bajra #Calcutta #Fatehgarh #MouthofaCow #Budgerow #Himalayas #DeepBass #ExperimentalSound #Noisemusic #HarshBass #ExperimentalNoise #Noise #Dushume #CoppedHall #Epping

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