

# Virginia Hilyard on Collaborating with Varsha Nair and Joining Womanifesto

Virginia Hilyard

I met Varsha during my Asialink Artist Residency in Bangkok in 1998-99, finding her to be a breath of fresh air in the mega-city. I felt we immediately synced up on many levels.

We turned daily activities and curiosities into material to shape and share. I seem to remember we dropped into making *Your Hand Open and Closes and Opens and Closes* effortlessly—filming Varsha’s masseur one home visit.

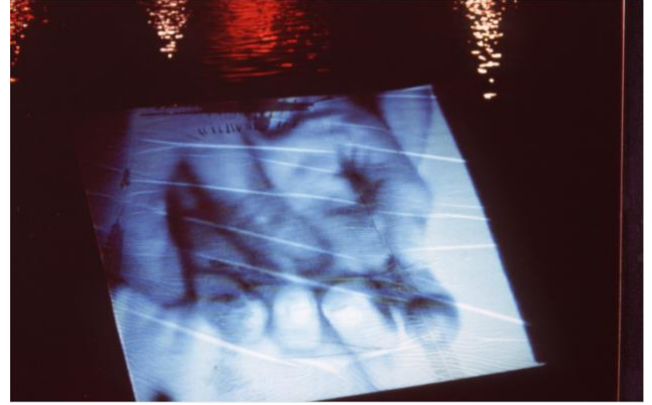
My curiosity about Muay Thai boxing took us to Bangkok’s Lumpini Stadium, a memorable experience filming the young boxers.

We both organised exhibitions and screenings of this work—the first was organised by Varsha who installed the hands video for ‘Womanifesto II’, projected on a floating screen in Saranrom Park in 1998.

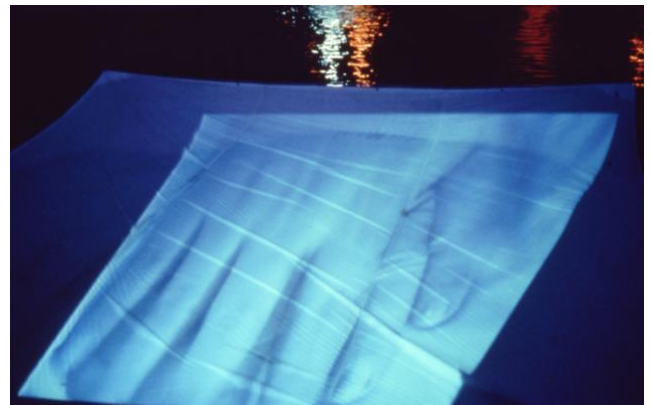


Your Hand Opens and Closes and Opens and

Closes — Preparation (Set of 9 Photographs). Asia Art Archive (AAA), Womanifesto Archive, Photographic Documentation, 1999 Womanifesto II, Exhibition. <https://aaa.org.hk/archive/263485>, accessed 2 November 2025.



Varsha Nair and Virginia Hilyard, *Your Hand Opens and Closes and Opens and Closes*, 1999. Video projector and screen stretched horizontally on the pond, Installation view. Photograph: Asia Art Archive (AAA), Womanifesto Archive, Photographic Documentation, 1999 Womanifesto II, Exhibition. <https://aaa.org.hk/archive/263485>, accessed 2 November 2025.



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