

BEST OF ATLANTA 2003

BEST TEST OF ENDURANCE BY AN ARTIST

In one of the most moving art events of the year, Indian-born artist **HORMUZ MININA** performed an act of stamina that became a metaphor for spiritual endurance and fortitude. In a memorable one-night-only *ShedSpace* exhibition this summer, the artist strapped himself to a slowly turning gurney inside a sweltering hot shed. For several hours Minina turned like a sacrificial lamb on a spit as viewers paraded into the space to watch the drama unfold. The presence of the artist added a palpable gravity to an exhibition that was as much performance as installation. On one video screen, there was a fast-food party trick, of a drinking straw wrapper slowly uncoiling, to imply an emotional unfurling. And on the other screen, a parade of words flashed by, a goading mantra of American conformity: SUV, supersize, pedicure \$15.

With a minimum of effects, Minina made himself the central player in a troubling personal and cultural drama about the difficulty with which an outsider adjusts to America's consumer melee, conveying a sense of alienation so profound it suggested physical trauma.