

NGMA Bengaluru in collaboration with Bangalore Film Society
Presents

Camera Stories - Filming through Time

Feb 2017 Film Screenings

Curatorial Note:

The art of film-making has always borrowed from the art of photography and vice-versa to tell stories about people, cultures, and times. This creative confluence of film and photography has contributed some of the best works of art in our times. The five films selected for the month of February are unique pieces of art in their own sense, hailing from various countries, cultures and historic times.

The selection ranges from the era of silent films from as early as 1928 (The Cameraman), to a collaborative film as a response to Lumiere brothers' films- one of the earliest filmmakers in the history-to films with some brilliant visual and audio effects like City of Gods. Films like 5 Broken Cameras and My Camera and Tsunami tell very fascinating encounters of the film makers who in the journey of capturing moving images and sounds, encounter displacement/damage of their cameras. But the film still goes on, to tell the story of the broken/displaced cameras.

Overall, these five films reflect the fascinating exchange of film-making, photography, storytelling and the journey of the film-maker through changing times.

14th Feb.,

The Cameraman / Edward Sedgwick Buster Keaton / 67 minutes / 1928

The Cameraman is a 1928 American silent comedy directed by Edward Sedgwick and an uncredited Buster Keaton. The picture stars Buster Keaton, Marceline Day, Harold Goodwin, and others.

The Cameraman was Keaton's first film with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. It is considered by fans and critics to be Keaton still in top form, and it was added to the National Film Registry in 2005 as being deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

15th Feb.,

Lumière and Company / 1h 28m 1995

Directors: forty-one international film directors including David Lynch, Abbas Kiarostami, Theo Angelopoulos, Wim Wenders

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Auguste and Louis Lumiere's first moving film, Romane Bohringer sought out fellow filmmakers, requesting that they shoot short movies on cameras similar to the one used by the French brothers. Among those who said yes were Spike Lee, Arthur Penn and Wim Wenders. Combining scenes from the Lumieres' first films with footage from the contemporary directors using the old equipment, the documentary shows just how much film-making has evolved in a century.

Lumière and Company is a 1995 anthology film made in collaboration between forty-one international film directors. The project consists in each of the filmmakers making a short film using the original Cinématographe camera invented by the Lumière brothers.

Shorts were edited in-camera and constrained by three rules:

A short may be no longer than 52 seconds, no synchronized sound and no more than three takes

16th Feb.,

Five Broken Cameras / Emad Burnat and Guy Davidi/ Documentary / 1h 34m/ 2011

There are five cameras — each with its own story. When his fourth son, Gibreel, is born in 2005, self-taught cameraman Emad Burnat, a Palestinian villager, gets his first camera. At the same time in his village of Bil'in, the Israelis begin bulldozing village olive groves to build a barrier to separate Bil'in from the Jewish Settlement Modi'in Illit. The barrier's route cuts off 60% of Bil'in farmland and the villagers resist this seizure of more of their land by the settlers.

During the next year, Burnat films this struggle, which is led by two of his best friends including his brother Iyad, while at the same time recording the growth of his son. Very soon, these events begin to affect his family and his own life. Emad films the Army and Police beating and arresting villagers and activists who come to support them. Settlers destroy Palestinian olive trees and attack Burnat when he tries to film them. The Army raids the village in the middle of the night to arrest children. He, his friends, and brothers are arrested or shot; some are killed. Each camera used to document these events is shot or smashed.

Eventually, in 2009, Burnat approaches Guy Davidi – an Israeli filmmaker and together, from these five broken cameras and the stories that they represent, these two filmmakers create the film.

17th Feb.,

MY CAMERA AND TSUNAMI / Directed and Produced by R.V.

Ramani / 90 Minutes/ 2011

My Camera and Tsunami is a very personal experience, the outcome of an unplanned detour to a coastal area on the Kanyakumari–Nagercoil route. It is the memory of a camera which perished in the Tsunami, along with its last filmed footage, the filmmaker has attempted to bridge the elusive images with evoking multiple possibilities, seeking parallels and new perspectives through his own encounters.

R.V.Ramani, the director of this film, is a contemporary filmmaker and teaches Film Studies at the School of Creative and Cultural Expressions, AUD, New Delhi.

21st Feb.,

City Of God/ Fernando Meirelles and Kaitia Lund/ 2 hrs 15mnts/ 2002

This chilling portrayal of life growing up in the favelas and streets of Brazil shows two boys coming of age, one of them growing up to become a photographer. Not only considered as the best film about photography, it is also one of the best films to come out in recent years.

22nd Feb. Jahangir Jani's Short Films: (to be confirmed)

Make Ups:

Cast: Zeenat Aman, Preeti Jain, Vishwas Kulkarni

Synopsis: Make Ups is a collage of a day in the lives of the three protagonists living in Mumbai. All three are leading very complex social and emotion lives with hardly any social support from their surroundings. They are involved in search of their utopias in spite of mundane lives.

Running Time: 9.08 Min; **Year:** 2005; **Language** –English

Screenings: 2006 – Lille film festival, France; Uppsala Short film festival, Sweden; IAAC film festival, New York, USA; Mini Indian Film Festival at the University of Connecticut, USA.

2009 – Video Wednesday, Gallery Espace, New Delhi

2013 – Translucent Video Art Festival, Mumbai; Unofficial Google + Film Festival, USA

2014 – Translucent Video Art Festival, Sunaparanta, Goa

2015 –Cut Into Time, [.BOX] and Translucent Video Art Initiative, Milan

Visitor

Cast: Goat Chandramukhi, Cop Shiva, Sharath Kumar and Others

Synopsis: The short film takes a tongue in cheek look at the prevailing conditions and the consequences of the apathy of the authorities.

Running Time: 04.27 min; **Year:** 2015; **Language:** Silent

Screenings: 2012 – 1 Shanthi Road, Bangalore

2015 - Hotel Maria Kapel Residency, Netherlands

Urmi

Cast: Pallav Patankar and others

Synopsis: Urmi is a film about the conflict of a man who is struggling with his discomfort with the societal norms about gender performance. It highlights the struggle of an LGBTQ person, both within himself and the world outside. It is situated in the economically humble locales of Mumbai.

Running Time: 10.00 min; **Year:** 2012; **Language:** Hindi

Screenings: 2016 –AKS Film Festival, Pakistan.

2013 – Kashish Miqff, Mumbai. Won Best Indian Narrative Short; Inside Out, Toronto IRISPRIZE Festival, Cardiff

2014 – Best of Kashish, IIT, Mumbai; Korea Queer Film Festival, Seoul

Urmi II

Synopsis: Urmi is a film about the conflict of a man who is struggling with his discomfort with the societal norms about gender performance. It highlights the struggle of an LGBTQ person, both within himself and the world outside. It is situated in the economically humble locales of Mumbai.

Running Time: 05.00 min; **Year:** 2016; **Language:** Hindi

Ba'tin

Cast: several

Synopsis: The Ba'tin videos are a series of videos exploring the question of the Zahir or obvious and the Ba'tin or hidden in ancient evidences, especially in the areas of religion and culture.

Running Time: Between 01.00 to 03.00 min; **Year:** 2016; **Language:** English

Screenings: 74 A screened at Apeejay Galleries, New Delhi in 2015.

About Jahangir Jani:

Jahangir Asgar Jani is a self-taught artist, who lives and works in Mumbai. His creative practice ranges from sculptures, installations, watercolours and film/video. At the core of his artistic practice lies the inquiry into making of culture and the socio-political consequences of its propagation. His work has received a wide critical acclaim from noted writers and cultural theorists.

He has done 17 solo shows since 1990 and participated in many in India and abroad as well.

Jani's filmography has been as widely seen as his art works. His short film *Make Ups* has been exhibited in festivals in India, Sweden (Uppsala), France (Lille), USA (New York, San Francisco, Connecticut) and other countries in Europe. His short film *Urmi* was awarded Best Indian Narrative Short in 2013 at the *Kashish* MIQ Film Festival in Mumbai. Since then it has been shown in various LGBT Film Festivals including Canada, UK and Korea. He received the prestigious Max Planck–Tiss fellowship in 2012 for a film under the URBAN ASPIRATIONS IN GLOBAL CITIES collaboration.

Jani has also curated a group show of 9 artists from Baroda, Bangalore and Mumbai, titled *Conversations*, at LOFT, Mumbai.