

ASHISH AVIKUNTHAK

Born 1972 in Jabalpur, India

Ashish Avikunthak is an experimental filmmaker who has been making films in India since the mid nineties. His films have been shown worldwide in film festivals, galleries and museums. Notable screenings were at the Tate Modern, London, Centre George Pompidou, Paris, Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, along with London, Locarno, Rotterdam, and Berlin film festivals among other locations. He has had retrospective of his works at Les Inattendus, Lyon (2006), Yale University (2008) and the National Centre for Performing Arts, Mumbai (2008), Festival International Signes de Nuit, Paris (2012), Rice University (2014). He has a PhD in cultural anthropology from Stanford University and has taught at Yale University. He is now an Assistant Professor of Film Media at the Harrington School of Communication & Media, University of Rhode Island. Avikunthak was included as a "Future Greats" artist in 2014 by Art Review magazine.

Lives and works in Calcutta, Bombay and New Haven.

Education

Ph.D., Cultural & Social Anthropology, Stanford University, United States of America (2007)
M.A., Cultural & Social Anthropology, Stanford University (2007)
M.A., Ancient Indian History Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post-Graduate & Research Institute, Pune, India (1996)
B.A., Social Work, Bombay University, India (1994)

Academic Appointment

2007-10 Lecturer in Anthropology, Films Studies and South Asian Studies, Yale University

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2009 *Archetype*, Aicon Gallery, London
2005 *Foot Fetish*, Seagull Arts and Media Resource Centre, Calcutta
2004 *Calcutta Street Portraits*, Goethe Institut, Max Muller Bhavan, Calcutta
1999 *Still Life and a Bridge*, Piramal Galley, Center for Photography as an Art Form, National Centre for Performing Arts, Bombay

Selected Group Exhibitions

2009 *Re-Frame*, Centre George Pompidou, Paris
2009 *Re-Frame*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde 2009
2009 *Indian Films*, La casa Encendida, Madrid
2008 *Cinema of Prayoga*, National Centre for Performing Arts, Bombay
2006 *Lightcone*, Centre George Pompidou, Paris
2006 *Cinema of Prayoga*, Tate Modern, London
2005 *Indian Experimental Films*, Cinema-Nova, Brussels

Films

2010 Vakratunda Swaha (36mm, Color and B&W, 22 minutes)
2007 Shadows Formless / *Nirakar Chhaya* (35mm, Color and B&W, 82 minutes, Bengali)
2005 Endnote / *Antaral* (16mm, Color and B&W, 18 minutes, Hindi)
2002 Performing Death, DV, Color, 16 minutes

- 2001 Dancing Othello | *Brihnnlala Ki Khelkali* (16mm, Color and B&W, 17 minutes, Hindi)
 2001 Rummaging for Pasts: Excavating Sicily, Digging Bombay, (DV, Color, 27 minutes)
 1999 Kalighat Fetish | *Kalighat Athikatha*, (16mm, Color and B&W, 22 minutes, Bengali)
 1998 Et Cetera, 16mm, Color, 32 minutes

Film Festival & Museum Screenings

Retrospectives

- 2014 Rice University
 2012 Festival International Signes de Nuit, Paris
 2008 National Centre for Performing Arts, Bombay
 2008 Whitney Humanities Centre, Yale University
 2006 Les Inattendus, Lyon
 2004 Goethe Institute, Max Muller Bhavan, Calcutta

Vakratunda Swaha (2010, 36mm, Color and B&W, 22 minutes)

- 2011 Human Frames, Kunst-im-Tunnel, Düsseldorf
 2011 Kolektiva, Ljubljana
 2011 You Don't Belong: Pasts and Futures of Indian Cinema, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Kunming
 2011 Generation in Transition. New Art from India, Zacheta National Gallery for Art, Warsaw
 2011 Paris-Delhi-Bombay, Centre George Pompidou, Paris
 2011 Rotterdam International Film Festival
 2010 Hamburg International Short Film Festival
 2010 Jordon Short Film Festival
 2010 Gallery Chatterjee & Lal, Mumbai

Shadows Formless / Nirakar Chhaya (2007, 35mm, Color and B&W, 82 minutes, Bengali)

*Best Director, Indo-American Arts Council Film Festival, New York

*Best Actress, Indo-American Arts Council Film Festival, New York

- 2009 Asian Hot Shots, Berlin
 2008 International Forum of New Cinema, Calcutta
 2008 India Visions, Washington D.C.
 2007 Indo-American Arts Council Film Festival, New York
 2008 International Film Festival Innsbruck, Austria
 2008 Singapore International Film Festival
 2007 Locarno International Film Festival, Switzerland

Endnote / Antara (2005, 16mm, Color and B&W, 18 minutes, Hindi)

- 2009 Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde 2009
 2009 Centre George Pompidou, Paris 2009
 2008 Jerusalem Film Festival 2008
 2008 Expanded Forum, Berlin International Film Festival
 2007 River to River, Florence Indian Film Festival
 2007 Indo-American Arts Council Film Festival, New York
 2007 International Bunker Film Festival, Italy
 2007 Tongues on Fire - Asian Woman Film Festival, London
 2007 Let It BE! A Festival of Independent Films, Bombay
 2007 San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival
 2007 International Film Festival Rotterdam
 2006 European Media Art Festival, Osnabruck
 2006 Images Festival, Toronto
 2006 Bangkok International Film Festival

Performing Death (2002, DV, Color, 16 minutes)

2002 Annual Conference, European Association of Archaeology, Thessaloniki

Dancing Othello | Brihmlala Ki Khelkali (2001, 16mm, Color and B&W, 17 minutes, Hindi)

2006 *Desire under Banyan: Beyond Bollywood*, Pacific Film Archive, UC Berkeley
2005 *Indian Experimental Films*, Cinema-Nova Brussels
2004 *Shakespeare in Asia*, Conference on Theatre, Stanford University
2002 *Dance in South Asia*, Conference on Performance, Swarthmore College
Rummaging for Pasts: Excavating Sicily, Digging Bombay Digging Bombay (2001, DV, Color, 27minutes)
2004 Vikalp- Films for Freedom, Bombay
2003 World Archaeology Congress, Washington
2001 *Narrative Pasts | Past Narratives*, Conference on Archaeology, Stanford

Kalighat Fetish | Kalighat Athikatha), (1999, 16mm, Color and B&W, 22 minutes, Bengali)

*Best Documentary, Tampere Film Festival

2007 Sommerszene, Salzburg
2007 Broadway Media Centre, Nottingham
2007 Cornerhouse, Manchester
2006 The Hat Factory, Luton
2006 The Peepul Centre, Leicester
2006 Arts Picturehouse, Cambridge
2006 Arnolfini, Bristol
2006 Watermans, Brentford
2006 Bite The Mango! Festival, Bradford
2006 MAC Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
2006 Tate Modern, London
2006 Centre George Pompidou, Paris
2006 Espace Croise, Roubaix
2005 South Asian Film Festival, Seattle
2005 Scratch Projects, Paris
2004 Experimenta, Bombay & New Delhi
2003 Queer Filmistan, San Francisco
2002 New York Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
2001 Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
2001 Tampere Film Festival
2000 Chingari Video Fest, Madison
2000 London Film Festival

Et Cetera (1998, 16mm, Color, 32 minutes)

2005 *Indian Experimental Films*, Cinema-Nova, Brussels
1999 Dhaka Short Film Festival

Awards

2008 Best Director, Indo-American Arts Council Film Festival, New York
2001 Best Documentary, Tampere International Short Film Festival, Finland