



## **16<sup>th</sup> IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival**

In Partnership with India International Centre, New Delhi

4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March 2020

If you listen closely you can hear many tongues speaking in unison, in a cacophony, in rhythm, sometimes with its own beat. As filmmakers we go out into the world to record these voices in the hope they will never be lost. The way we record is as different as the voices we record. At the 16<sup>th</sup> IAWRT Asian Women's Festival we hope to create a space where we can collectively listen to the voice speaking at a distance, the whisper, the guffaw, the shout, the song, the sigh. Perhaps, the act of listening and seeing can bring us back to articulating the way women shape and subvert the world we live in.

This edition of our festival seeks to reflect on the idea of claiming democracy and the many claims on democracy. Women use multiple strategies to claim democratic spaces while being painfully aware of the many ways in which they are made invisible by majoritarian claims. The festival will bring together women artists working with films and photographs to both document and intervene in these processes.

The festival will invite films across genres that address the broad theme. We plan to have three curated sections. The festival begins with a day long workshop.

### **'Her Upside Down Gaze':**

This section will include films across genres- narrative, documentary, experimental and VR films as well. Some of the questions that this curated section seek to address are: What are the myriad ways in which women filmmakers are re-imagining the craft of filmmaking? Does our experimentation with film form reflect shared concerns, connect similar strategies, define a distinct vision of both our subjects and ourselves?

### **Country Focus:**

We have always had an Asian country or a region focus in the previous edition of our Festival. This time we plan to focus on the films from the Gulf region. We hope to represent filmmakers from Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

### **Women and Photography:**

Our third section will bring together the works of women photographers and collectives. We hope to invite some of these artists to speak about their work. The works of the selected photographers will be exhibited at the festival venue. We are particularly excited with this section because we have not engaged with the medium of photography in the past. Women photographers have been engaged in documenting the contemporary and have also been seeking to recuperate the presence of women in archival photography.

**Workshop:**

The first day of our festival begins with a workshop on the issues around producing and distributing a film. Women producers are challenging the eco-system created by male dominated industries. This workshop is an attempt to articulate how women are reimagining film practice and film production. We hope to invite women producers and filmmakers to talk about their strategies in dealing with the hurdles they face to procure funding, produce and distribute their films.

We are seeking support and sponsorship for our festival. We hope you will consider our request.

Regards

Surabhi Sharma and Priya Thuvassery

Festival Director and Co-Director

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