

IAWRT

The International Association of Women in Radio & Television

The Once and The Future of The Documentary

Workshop hosted by IAWRT and SSAF

6th and 7th March

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The oversaturated media landscape we inhabit is both a provocation and an invitation to deconstruct ways in which images are produced, circulated and consumed. How are images produced? How are they circulated? Should they be archived? What are the political urgencies that demand that films are screened or not and that archives reveal or erase? Is a collective rendering of meaning useful or indeed necessary? What and who is the collective if we think about personal and public images produced, archived?

This workshop responds to two direct provocations. One, directly a growing number of films we see around us that place the embodied subject of the filmmaker directly in the line of fire, so to say. We see films whose makers ask deeply personal questions involving gender, caste and religion, virtually abolishing the distinction between the personal archive and the political archive. A combination of original footage comes alongside found footage, home videos and memes. Young women are increasingly asking questions around both the promise and the risk involved when they enter the public domain with a camera in hand. Films increasingly eschew 'production' as the privileged mode for image making and propose instead a feminist mode of using the filmic apparatus as a survival kit, for making and circulating, to express and to learn.

A second provocation arises from new forms, and new concerns, of the documentary and moving image archiving which often seems to make common cause with filmmaking itself.

Filmmakers, archivists and activist groups come together, who are working with the moving image, with a specific focus on film, video and media collectives. Participants

About IAWRT: *The International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) is a not-for-profit professional organisation of women working in electronic and allied media. It is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). IAWRT organises conferences, film festivals, and other allied activities. It also offers scholarships for professional advancement and grants for research projects.*

IAWRT – Chapter India: Managing Trustee: Aaradhna Kohli Kapur | **Secretary:** Imrana Khan | **Treasurer:** Anitha Balachandran **Board Members:** Aruna Vasudev, Bina Paul, Padmaja Shaw, Priya Thuvasserry, Shikha Jhingan, Teena Gill

| iawrtindia@gmail.com |

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will present their material and discuss questions in a free space, where they can speak of the possibilities, along with the dangers and risks involved in making these films or these archives, and producing them for public scrutiny and possible backlash. All of these projects are challenging certain stated and accepted understanding of putting films out in the public domain.

DAY ONE

10-10.15: Welcome

Introduction to workshop: Bina Paul

About IAWRT: Aaradhana Kolhi

About SSAF: Ashish Rajadhyaksha

10.15-11.45: Contemporaneity of Documentary: Thinking Practices

Madhusree Dutta

Respondents: [Sameera Jain](#), [Surabhi Sharma](#), [Lubnah Ansari](#)

11.45-12: Tea break

12.00-1.30: Beyond Testimonial Filmmaking, The Personal in

Hard Times Koel Sen

Nausheen Khan

Nina Sabnani

Moderator: [Prachee Bajania](#)

1.30-2.30 lunch

2.30-4.00: The Collective as a mode of filmmaking

Ruchika Negi (The Learning Lab/ The Third Eye)

Pinky (SPS Community Media)

Kasturi Basu (People's Film Collective)

Moderator: [Shilpi Gulati](#)

4-4.15 Tea

4.15-5.45 **Mai Masri** (filmmaker, Palestine)

Moderator: [Subasri Krishnan](#)

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DAY TWO

10-11.30: Location and Materiality: Filmmaking in Hard Times

Muntaha Amin

Ehraz Asmaduz Zaman

Priyanka Chhabra

Moderator: [Iffat Fatima](#)

11.45-1.15: Archiving Documentary: Realising the Potential

of the Past Merle Kroeger (The Fifth Wall)

QAMRA Archival Project at NLSIU (T Jayashree)

Moderator: [Sabeena Gadihoke](#)

1.30-2.30 lunch

2.00-3.30: Closing panel:

Making, Archiving: Expanded Documentary Practice

Arbab Ahmad (filmmaker, Insides and Outsides)

Reena Mohan, Bina Paul and Surabhi Sharma (archive-in-progress, A Room of

One's Own) Moderator: [Madhusree Dutta](#)

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