



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)

Select 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

Select 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 <i>Brihnnlala Ki Khelkali</i> (16mm, Color and B&W, 17 minutes, Hindi)
2001	Rummaging for Pasts: Excavating Sicily, Digging Bombay, (DV, Color, 27 minutes)
1999	Kalighat Fetish <i>Kalighat Athikatha</i> , (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 | *Antaral* (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 | *Brihnnlala 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
2002 *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	<i>Indian Experimental Films</i> , Cinema-Nova, Brussels
1999	Dhaka Short Film Festival

Awards & Honors

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