

ASHISH AVIKUNTHAK

b.1972, Jabalpur, India

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

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

Selected Group Shows

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

Films

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| 2007 | <i>Shadows Formless / Nirakar Chhaya</i> (35mm, Color and B&W, 82 minutes, Bengali) |
| 2005 | <i>Endnote / Antarat</i> (16mm, Color and B&W, 18 minutes, Hindi) |
| 2002 | <i>Performing Death</i> , DV, Color, 16 minutes |
| 2001 | <i>Dancing Othello Brihnnlala Ki Khelkali</i> (16mm, Color and B&W, 17 minutes, Hindi) |
| 2001 | <i>Rummaging for Pasts: Excavating Sicily, Digging Bombay</i> , (DV, Color, 27 minutes) |
| 1999 | <i>Kalighat Fetish Kalighat Athikatha</i> , (16mm, Color and B&W, 22 minutes, Bengali) |
| 1998 | <i>Et Cetera</i> , 16mm, Color, 32 minutes |

Film Festival & Museum Screenings

***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

Retrospectives

2008 National Centre for Performing Arts, Bombay
2008 Whitney Humanities Centre, Yale University
2006 Les Inattendus, Lyon
2004 Goethe Institute, Max Muller Bhavan, Calcutta

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
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.

Bibliography

2009 'Archetype': Two Solo exhibition by Ashish Avikunthak and Sakti Burman at Aicon Gallery– An article in the artdaily.org (September 6, 2009).
 2009 Profile: A Split Existence – An article in the Yale Daily News (January 16, 2009).
 2008 National Center for Performing Arts Catalogue - Lead feature article in context of a retrospective at NCPA, Mumbai.
 2007 Erasure of the Subaltern as Auto Critique - An essay by Abhishek Hazra in the online contemporary Indian art webmagazine Artconcerns (June '07).
 2006 Cinema Of Prayoga – extracts from the catalogue of Tate Modern, by Tanya Singh in the magazine Vertigo (Autumn '07).
 2006 Interviewed by Amrit Gangar - in "Cinema Prayoga: Indian Experimental Films 1913-2006"eds., Brad Butler & Karen Mirza (London: no.w. here)
 2006 Article in Siliconeer - a San Francisco Bay Area's webmagazine (April '06).
 2006 Review in American Anthropologist - by Ruth Van Dyke of Performing Death & Rummaging for Pasts: "Seeing the Past: Visual Media in Archaeology" 108 (2): 370–384.