BERND LÜTZELER

film | video | expanded cinema

Wedekindstr. 19 | 10243 Berlin
+49 172 3947635 | filmi@gmx.de
www.bernd-luetzeler.de

about my work

With my films, installations and expanded cinema works I often explore techniques of moving image production and presentation in relation to film aesthetics and perception. Therefore the disclosure of cinematic techniques, loops, found footage, DIY- and analogue technologies are an integral part of my work. For ten years, I've been an active member of the artist-run filmlab *LaborBerlin e.V.*, a space that allows filmmakers to process and produce analogue films, independent from any industrial constrains. The aesthetics of contemporary popular Indian culture have become another strong influence in my works. Over the last twenty years I have spent a significant amount of time in Mumbai where some of my projects have been made. Recently, I've become fascinated with the topic of the film city, especially against the backdrop of inequality and overpopulation in an dystopian urban India of today. After exploring this theme in a fictitious way with my expanded work *Camera Threat*, I am now exploring the dark side of the Indian film industry with a hybrid documentary approach in my current project *Strugglers*.

Bernd Lützeler, January 2022

Strugglers (working title)

experimental documentary, work in progress, approx. 90 min, digital 4K, interviews & dialogues in English & Hindi with english subtitles
Day by day, thousands of young men and women are flocking to the casting studios in Mumbai, hoping to become film stars one day. Only a few will get a chance, competition and frustration are ubiquitous. This film offers these aspiring actors the chance to gain experience by acting in re-enactments and tell their personal stories.
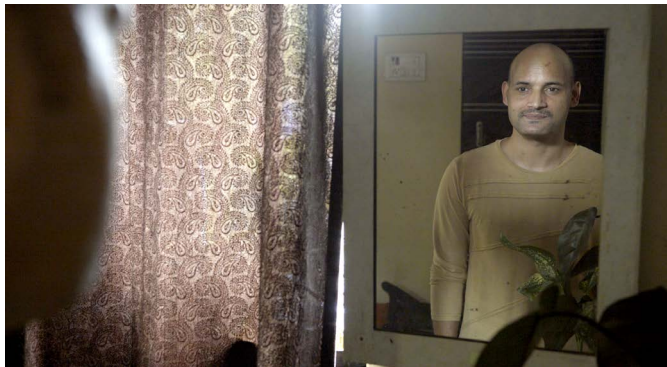
*Strugglers*   *film stills from the reseach shoots & interviews*

Analogue Natives (working title)

expanded cinema, work in progress, approx. 15 min, double projection 35mm & digital 2K, interviews & dialogues in English & Hindi with english subtitles
Veterans of the Indian film industry talk about the decline of their analogue film craftsmanship. Residents of a ramshackle building in Mumbai shoot the collapse of their own homes with their mobile. Indian fans of a US wrestling star print their own selfies on a hoarding in order to express their birthday wishes to their idol.

*Analogue Natives*   *film stills*
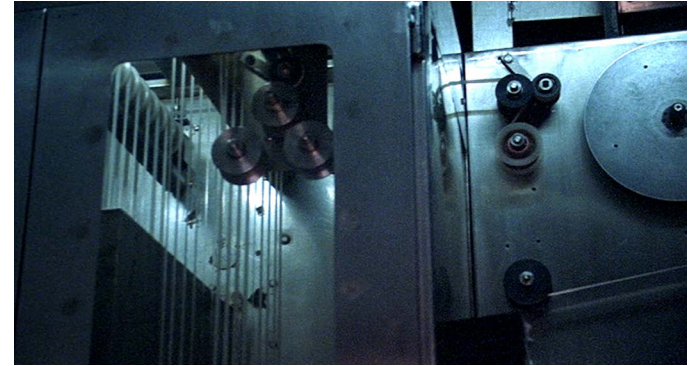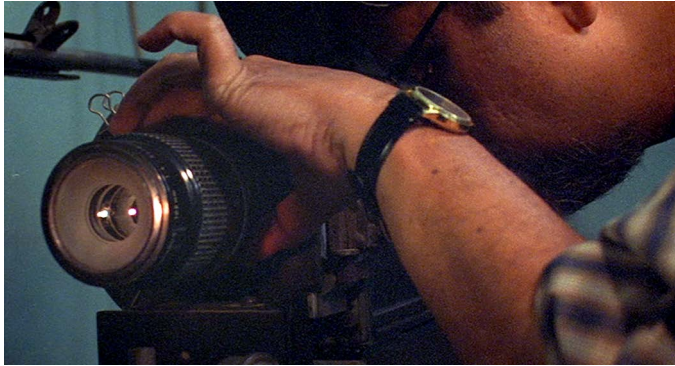
Revue! (working title)
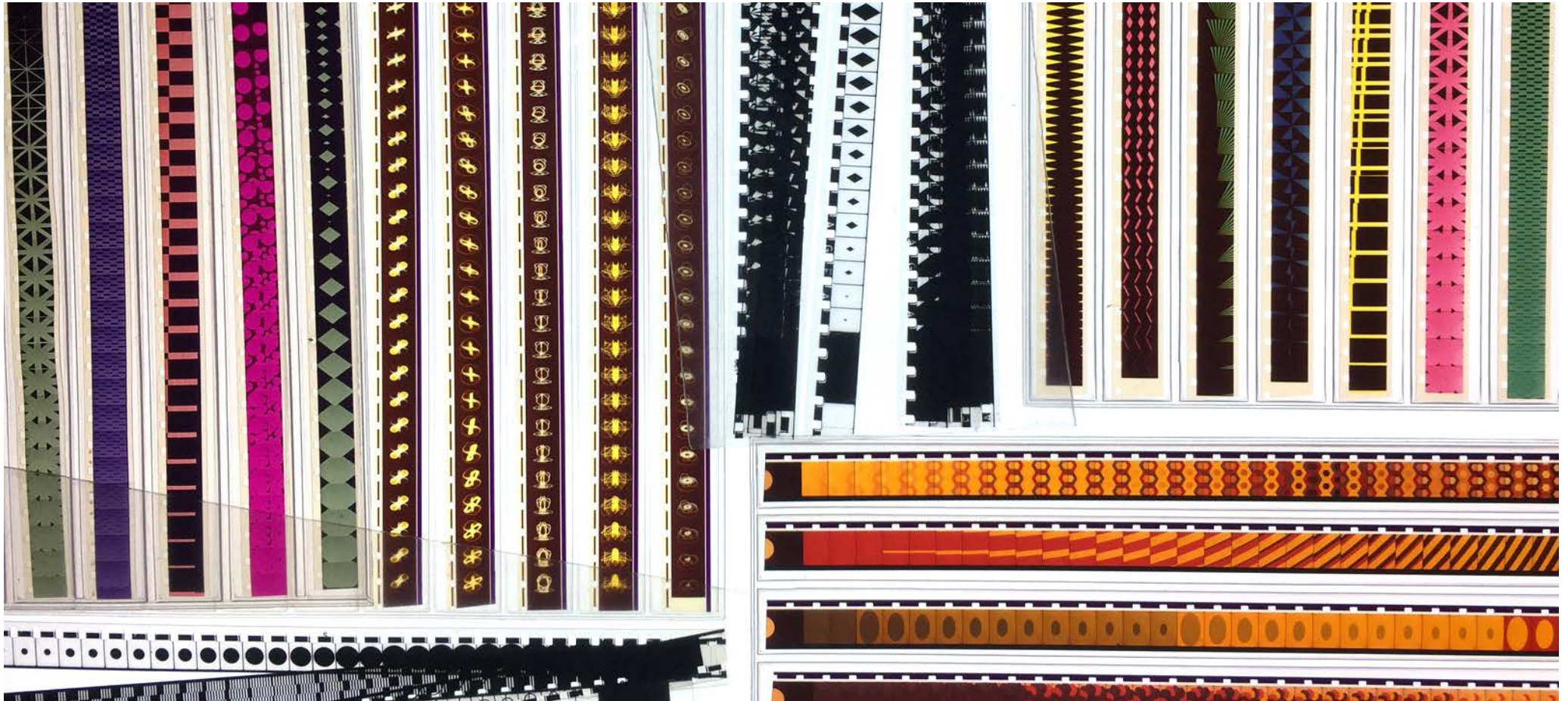
expanded cinema, work in progress, approx. 15 min, stereoscopic 3D film projection, Super-8 mm, no dialogue
Artefacts from the golden times of small gauge amateur film take centre stage: Ready-made film transitions from the 1970's and 80's, colourful patterns for the ambitioned amateur filmer to be intercut into their home movies. This project brings them back to life and emphasizes on their opulent aesthetics in a stereoscopic 3D film projection.
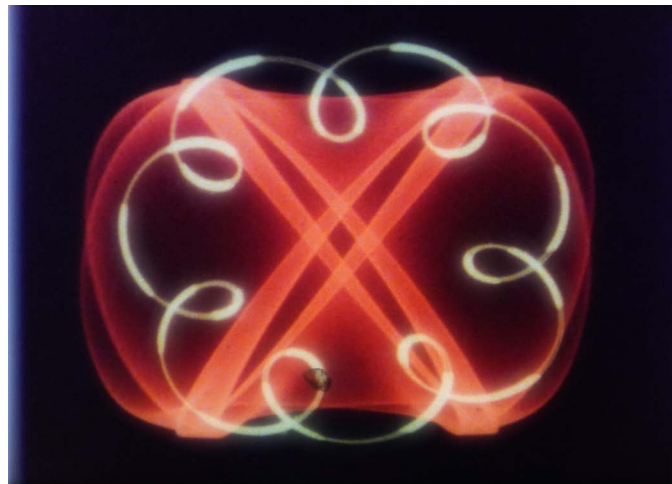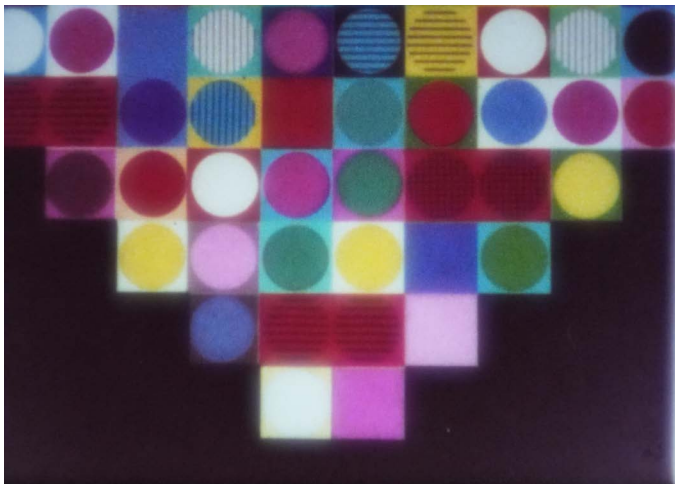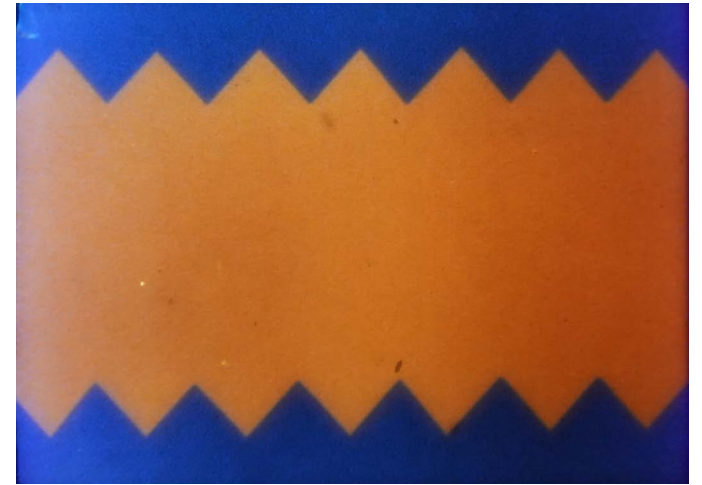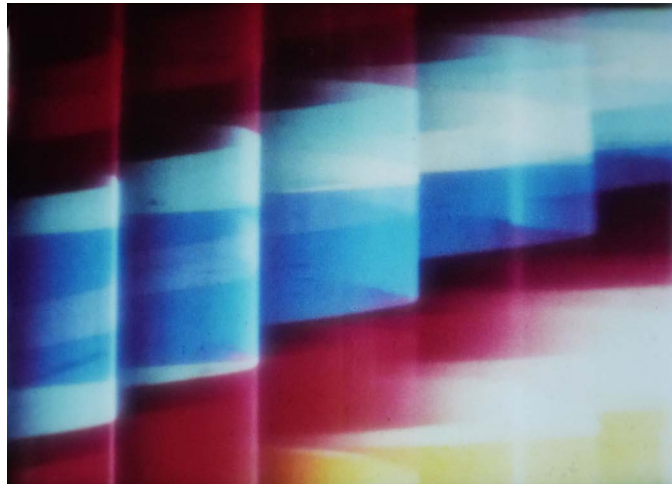
Revue! *sample film stills from the available material*

How to Build a House out of Wreckage and Rags

experimental home movie 2022, 8 min, super-8 scan to 4K, English voicever, no subtitles
Found footage: An expat Indian couple in the US of the 1960's presents their recently gained wealth in front of the camera. The peaceful images are juxtaposed
with a hateful voiceover, lifted from the soundtrack of the fundamentalist Christian propaganda film "Streets of the Walking Dead" (1954).

How to Build a House out of Wreckage and Rags   *film stills*
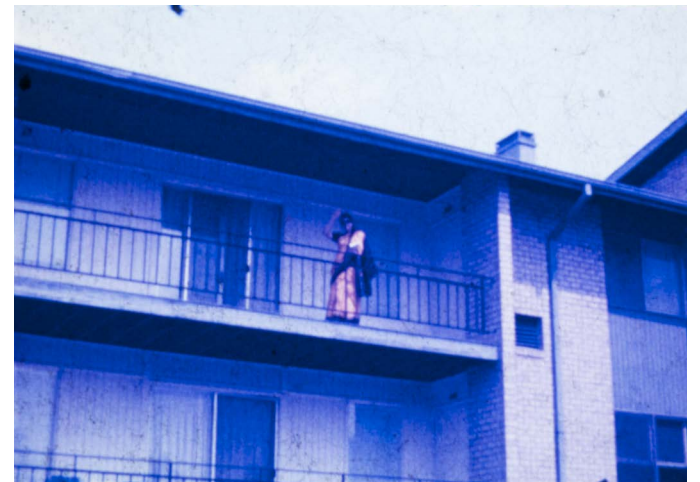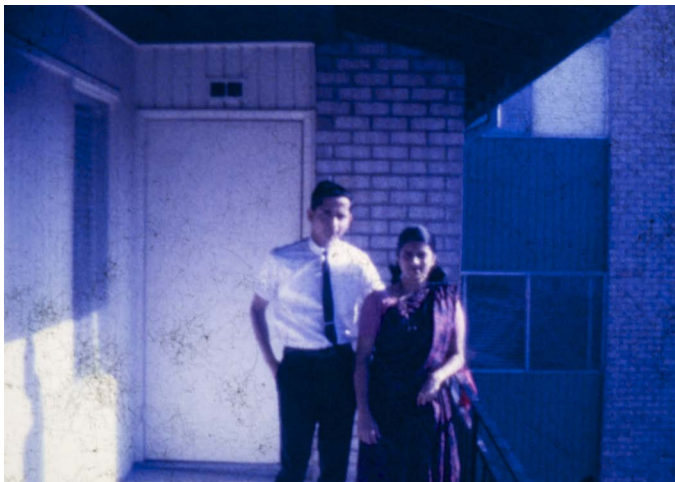
Digital Rituals in the Analogue Cloud

film performance 2018, 15 min, super-8 film projection with artificial fog and sound performance by Guido Möbius
The Super-8 film Batagur Baska (page 21) is being projected into a thick artificial fog. For a long time the images keep floating above the heads of the audience, eventually they get dispersed in the fog. Meanwhile the experimental music by Guido Möbius pervades the space with strange harmonic microphone feedbacks.

Digital Rituals in the Analogue Cloud   *impressions from the live performance at VariaVision at Roter Salon, Volksbühne Berlin 2018*

_galore

experimental film 2018, 9 min or loop, digital or 16mm scan to 4K, voiceover in Kannada with English subtitles
The camera continuously moves forward, further and further exploring the inner world of the Indian bazaar, its shops and its sheer inexhaustible mass of products.
From outside we hear a local public police announcement blaring through the traffic noise, warning bus loads of rural customers about the dangers in the big city.

_galore   *film stills*
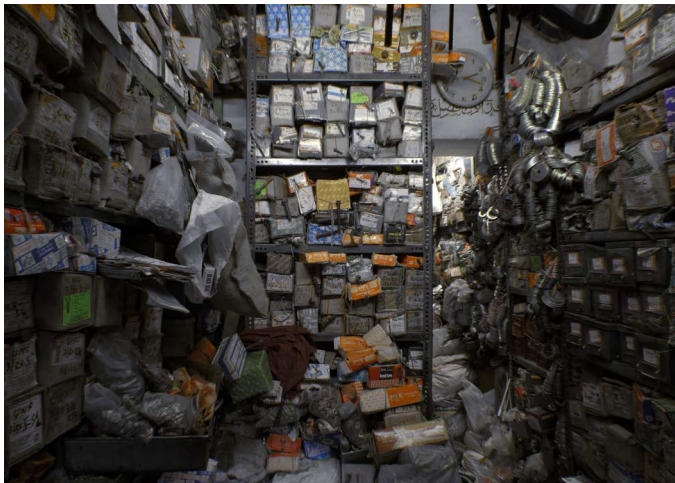
Fultu Faltu Filim
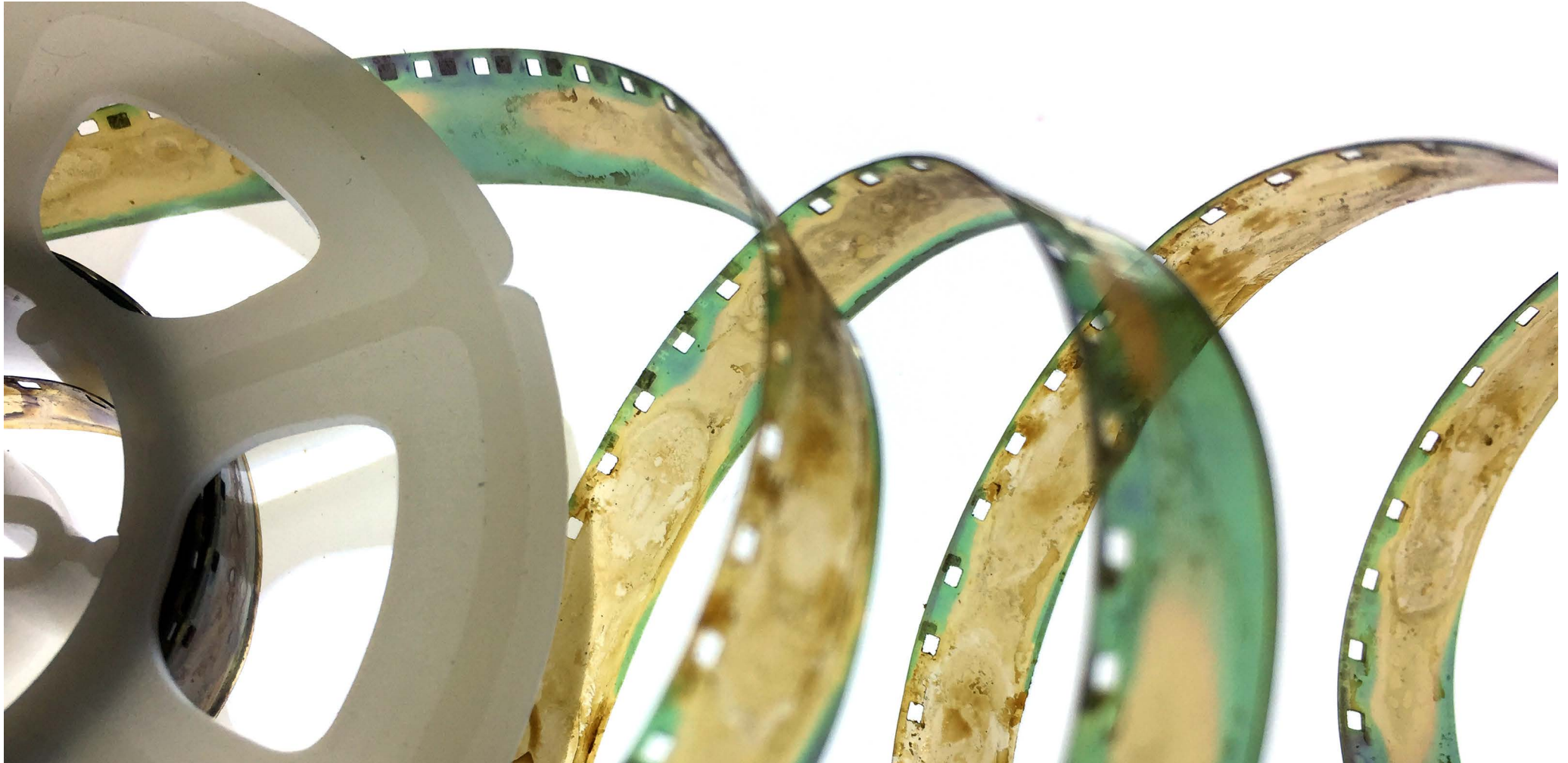
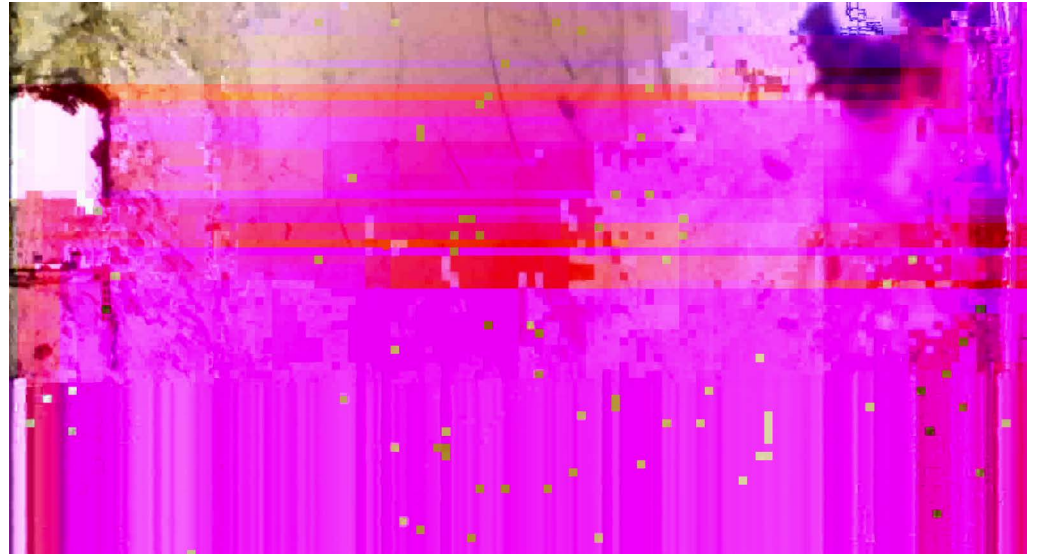
structural film 2018, 2 min, 35mm with optical sound
Age-old, physically decayed Super-8 material, found in a thrift market in Mumbai, scanned on a home-made film scanner,
sent through a glitch environment under Linux and finally, digitally exposed to 35mm polyester print film.

Fultu Faltu Filim   *film stills*

Camera Threat

expanded cinema 2017, 30 min, double projection 35mm & digital 2K, dialogues in English & Hindi with English subtitles
Media artefacts of diverse origin and formats collide on the silver screen and merge into a subjective view behind the curtains of the Indian film metro Mumbai:
Seated on a casting couch, two actors develop various strange and absurd impromptu conversations.

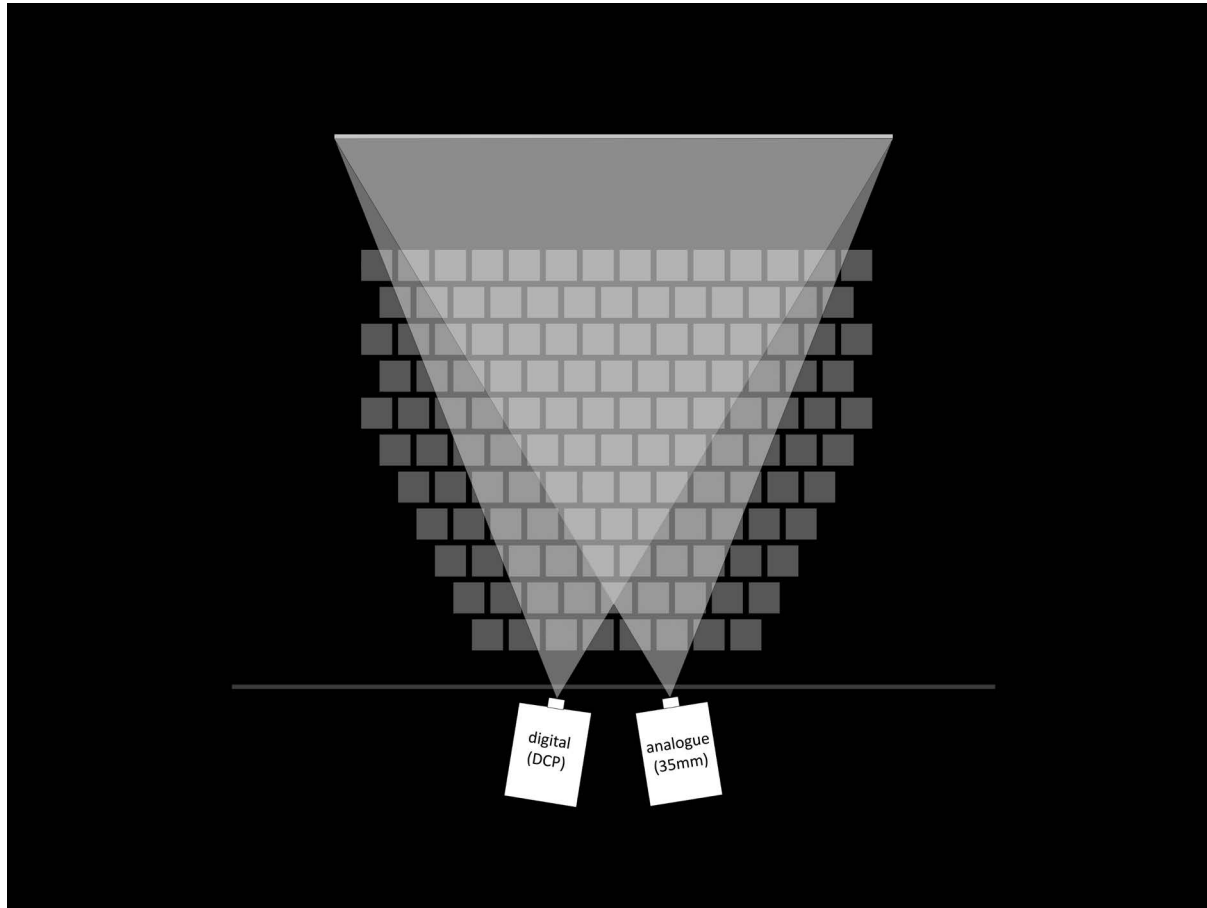*Camera Threat*   *film stills*

Camera Threat   *technical concept of the double projection*   *superimposition of images in double projection*

A Soundfilm

found footage 2017, 5 min, Super-8 with magnetic track, dialogues in German, no subtitles
Found home movies by an unknown family from West-Berliner from the 1970's and 80's. After purchasing a new camera with sound recording features, they shot most films accidentally out of focus. The manually edited film consists only of blurry footage which guides the focus to the colours, movements and the original magnetic soundtrack.

A Soundfilm   *film stills*

Batagur Baska – by Guido Möbius

music clip 2016, 8 min, Super-8 with magnetic track, music by Guido Möbius
In an unknown place, surrounded with dense fog, tourists stubbornly try to take selfies and photos.
The polyrhythmic and hypnotic track Batagur Baska *by experimental musician Guido Möbius emphasises on the ritual character of the events.*

Batagur Baska

film stills

Nola's saloN

**film installation** 2014, three super-8 film loops withrotating mirrors and five bean bags, English voiceover – in collaboration with Eric Wilhelm da Cruz
A lounge space with bean bags for visitors to hang out and chill. Through rotating mirrors, super-8 projectors circulate images of rotating luxury products all over the walls: A red lipstick, a Rolex watch and a posh car. A female voice recites palindromes in a hypnotic manner.

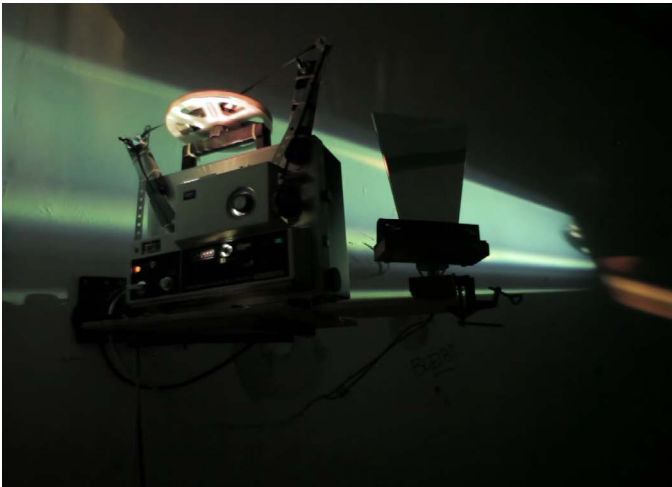*Nola's saloN*   *film stills*
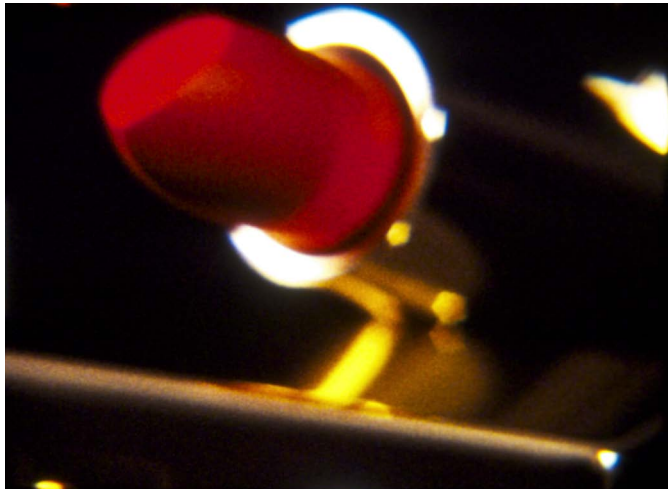
Nola's saloN   *impressions from the show at Kino Wolf as part of 48 Stunden Neukölln, Berlin 2014*

Traveling with Maxim Gorkiy

travelogue 2014, 11 min, super-8 film with wild soundtrack, German voiceover, English subtitles – in collaboration with Kolja Kunt
An elderly married German couple on a world cruise. Wherever they land, the same spectacle takes place: in every harbour local folklore groups welcome them with a dance performance. A narrator guides us to the various cultures and draws our attention towards the extraordinary within the ordinary.

*Traveling with Maxim Gorkiy*   *film stills*

K⁰ - Act 2

multimedia theatre performance 2011, 30 min, solo performance mit nine Kameras, one TV and three video projectors – in collaboration with Jyoti Dogra
Free adaptation of Kafka's parable "Up in the Gallery": The frail tubercular lady circus rider is aware of her shortcomings.
But instead of struggling, she adopts modern video technology in order to simulate all her stunts for the marvelled audience who can hardly believe her skilfulness.

K⁰ - Act 2   *impressions from the rehearsals and the premiere at Gallery Beyond, Mumbai, India 2011*
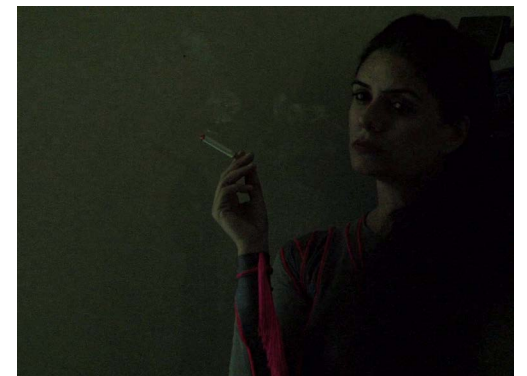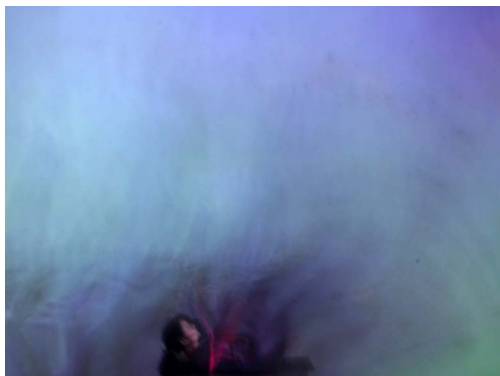
the Voice of God

experimental film 2011, 10 min, 35mm, voiceover in an unknown language, no subtitles
The gridlock in the Indian metro Mumbai dissolves in analogue time lapse sequences with long time exposure. A voiceover dramatises the spreading paranoia.
Public announcements ask people to be cautious, because danger lurks everywhere. A woman prefers to stay at home and sits motionless on her bed.
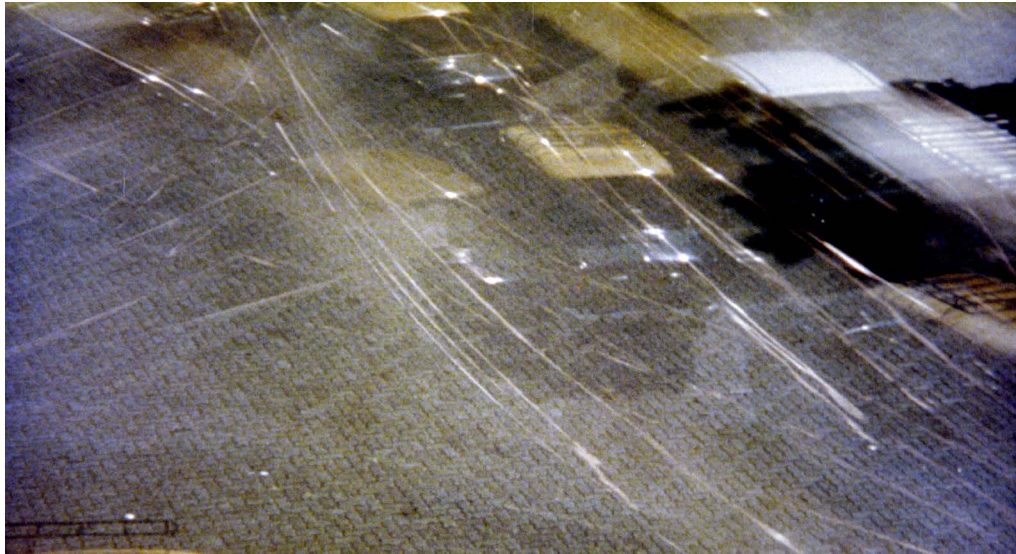
the Voice of God *film stills*

Filmography & Links

How to Build a House out of Wreckage and Rags
experimental home movie 2022, 8 min, super-8 scan to 4K, English, no subtitles
preview password: Kolkata

Digital Rituals in the Analogue Cloud
film performance 2018, 15 min, super-8 with artificial fog and sound performance
documentation at VariaVision, Roter Salon, Volksbühne Berlin 2018, 8 min

_galore
experimental film 2018, 9 min, digital or 16mm scan to 4K, Kannada, English subtitles
preview (digital version)

Fultu Faltu Filim
structural film 2018, 2 min, 35mm
preview password: Cinevator

Camera Threat
double projection 35mm & digital 2017, 30 min, English & Hindi, English subtitles
documentation at Filmfest Dresden, Filmtheater Schauburg 2018, 32 min

A Soundfilm
found footage 2017, 5 min, Super-8 with magnetic track, German, no subtitles
preview password: Königssee

Batagur Baska – by Guido Möbius
music clip 2016, 8 min, Super-8 with magnetic track
music clip

Nola's saloN
film installation 2014, 3 super-8 film loops, English, no subtitles
documentation at 48 Stunden Neukölln, Kino Wolf, Berlin 2014, 5 min

Traveling with Maxim Gorkiy
travelogue 2014, 11 min, super-8 film, German, English subtitles
preview

K⁰ - Act 2
multimedia theatre performance 2011, approx. 30 min, with Jyoti Dogra
documentation at Gallery Beyond, Mumbai, India 2011, 17 min

the Voice of God
experimental film 2011, 10 min, 35mm, unknown language, no subtitles
preview

Film Festivals and Exhibitions (selection)

Alchemy Film & Moving Image Festival, Hawick, UK 2012

Ann Arbor Film Festival, USA 2018

Antimatter [Media Art], Victoria, Canada 2005, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2018

Arkipel International Documentary & Experimental Film Festival, Jakarta 2015

Athens International Film & Video Festival, USA 2012, 2018

Aurora Picture Show, Houston, USA 2013, 2019

Berlin International Film Festival - Forum Expanded, Germany 2017

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, UK 2012, 2017

Cairo Video Festival Medrar for Contemporary Art, Egypt 2013, 2017

Cambridge Film Festival, UK 2012

Centre Pompidou, Exhibition Paris Delhi Bombay, Paris 2011

Chicago Underground Film Festival, USA 2011, 2016, 2019

Crossroads Festival – San Francisco Cinematheque, USA 2012, 2015

Currents: Santa Fe International New Media Festival, USA 2013, 2016

Curta Cinema - Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival, Brazil 2018

Curtas Vila do Conde Festival Internacional de Cinema, Portugal 2017

Dokumentarfilmwoche Hamburg, Germany 2017

dokumentART, Szczecin, Poland 2013

European Media Art Festival EMAF, Osnabrück, Germany 2015

EXIS Moving Image Forum, Seoul, South Korea 2017

Experimenta India, Bangalore 2011, 2017

FestCurtasBH, Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival, Brazil 2015

Film Southasia, Kathmandu, Nepal 2013

Filmfest Dresden International Short Film Festival, Germany 2012, 2018

Foro Artistico, International Media Art Forum, Hannover, Germany 1997

Fracto Experimental Film Encounter, Berlin, Germany 2019

Fullframe Artfilm Festival, Vienna, Austria 2013

Guanajuato International Film Festival, Mexico 2011

Hošek Contemporary Gallery, Berlin, Germany 2020

Image Forum Festival, Japan 2016

IndieLisboa, Lisbon, Portugal 2011

Institut für Alles Mögliche – Stützpunkt Teufelsberg, Berlin, Germany 2020

International Film Festival of Kerala, India 2019

International Film Festival Rotterdam, Netherlands 2011, 2019

Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen, Germany 2019

Janela internacional de Cinema do Recife, Brazil 2011

Kassel Documentary Festival, Germany 2017

Kunsthalle Mainz, Germany 2018

Kunstmuseum Gelsenkirchen, Germany 2019

L'Alternativa Festival de Cinema Independent de Barcelona, Spain 2011, 2016

New York Film Festival – Views from the Avant Garde 2012

Nowe Horyzonty International Film Festival, Wroclaw, Poland 2012

Seoul International New Media Festival (NeMaf), South Korea 2013, 2016

Singapore Arts Museum 2018

Strange Beauty Film Festival, Durham, USA 2013

Stuttgarter Filmwinter, Germany 2016, 2017

Unesco World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, Film Museum Potsdam, Germany 2017

VariaVision, Volksbühne Roter Salon, Berlin, Germany 2018

VBK Berlin Artist Association, Germany 2013

Vienna Art Week, Filmmuseum Vienna, Austria 2016

vkunst, Galerie Greulich, Frankfurt, Germany 2013

WNDX Winnipeg's Festival of Film & Video Art, Canada 2011

Press (selection)

Günther Michels – Experimental Analogue Film – Vagabundler 2020

Matt Turner on Camera Threat – MUBI Notebook 2017

Priyanka Sacheti – A Preview Into the bangaloREsidency Project – sbcltr 2017

Tanul Thakur – Camera Threat is a German's Ode to the Hindi Masala Film – The Wire 2017

Philip Widmann – Processing Landscape – Image Forum Festival 2016

Alejandro Bachmann – Öffnung des Blicks – aufsmaulsuppe 2016

Philip Widmann – The Black Holes of History – Arkipel Festival Jakarta 2015

Arnaud Hée – Les Esprits Des Lieux – Critikat 2012

Divashri Sinha – Two toned effect – Mumbai Mirror 2011

Deepa Punjani – K° play review – Mumbai Theatre Guide 2011

Domitila Radharane on the Voice of God – Janela Crítica 2011

FBW jury's decision on the Voice of God – 2011