

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME WITH ABSTRACTS

International Conference on Photography

LIGHT WRITING

The Photographic Image Reloaded

Curated by Pushpamala N

16 - 17 March 2019

10.00 AM - 6.00 PM

Museum Theatre, Government Museum, Egmore, Chennai

The conference is dedicated to the acclaimed Bangladesh photographer, activist and mentor Shahidul Alam and his continuing resistance.

DAY 1

SATURDAY 16 APRIL 2019

10.00 AM Introduction by curator Pushpamala N.

Tribute to Shahidul Alam / screening of film 'Struggle for Democracy'
Condolence for Bisi Silva

11.00 AM Tea Break

The 'Majority World' and its Discontents

11.15 AM T Shanaathanan / Artist and Archivist / Jaffna
Archive of the difficult past: violence, memory, resistance and photography in Sri Lanka

Based on selected images circulated through photography books and the exhibition catalogues, this paper attempts to map the shifting tensions between the frame and the framed through following questions connected to the major historical moments of Sri Lanka: how was photography invested in the making of Sri Lanka as a colonial state and a place of paradise? How did the civil conflict and the violence alter the photographic gaze? How did photography witness violence or expression of trauma? How does photography become a tool of resistance?

11.45 AM Y S Alone / Art Historian / JNU / Delhi
Unfolding the Image of the Invisible: Making sense of being 'What?'

There is a difference between the 'photograph' as exotic, what gets captured, and an invitation to enter into the world of invisible territory. The third category deals with many evil practices the Indian caste-Hinduness has been nurturing over a period of time. Claims of being 'modern', 'post-modern', 'post-colonial' become extremely problematic as embedded hierarchical thinking acts as a catalyst. Sudharak Olwe and Arun Vijai Mathavan capture the images of social existence of the communities where a frame is an invitation to enter into the darker territories that are otherwise invisible to the naked eye, or for that matter question the whole idea of 'pure appearance' not as momentary process, but as a process that thickens the very existence of the abject conditionality of the material existence of the Scheduled