Film Screening: When Shankar Nag Comes Asking

Speaker:
Sushma Veerappa (Director)

Date / Time:
March 22, 2013 - 3:45pm - 5:15pm

Venue:
10th Floor Auditorium, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:
Bangalore could be any other metropolis of India. The lives of the auto-drivers in the documentary could be survival stories of vulnerable millions in many big cities right across the world. The twist in Bangalore’s tale is Shankar Nag. No other city has an actor breathing through auto-rickshaw windshields two decades after his demise.

WHEN SHANKAR NAG COMES ASKING is an album about today’s Bangalore. In the race to become a ‘global’ city, the struggle is as much in holding on to the familiar as it is about embracing the new. In what ways does one seek the familiar, when the familiar is not the same anymore? What does it take for Ramanna, Mahadeva, and the Auto-drivers at Shankar Nag Auto Stand, 8th Main Road, Basaveshwaramgar, to ‘belong’ in Bangalore today? How does Shankar Nag fit into this story about identity and belonging?

A Note on the Speaker:
After a Post-graduate diploma in Social Communications Media from Sophia Polytechnic, Mumbai, Sushma joined the Bangalore Film Society. She conceived and executed a film education programme for school children. She has been making documentaries since 1998. Her focus has been on documenting the work of grass root organizations working in Karnataka’s remote villages. Her films have also been used as communication tools by these organizations to further engage with the people they work with. Her work encompasses a wide spectrum - about people’s co-operatives, leadership imaging as participatory research tool, issues related to rainwater harvesting, women and violence. The city in transition has been her concern in recent years. WHEN SHANKAR NAG COMES ASKING is the outcome of this engagement. It is her first independent work.