

THE CINEMA TRAVELLERS
Photographs by Amit Madheshiya

Opening: Saturday, 23 September 2017, 7 pm
On view: Until 21 October 2017
Gallery hours: Monday – Saturday, 11 am – 7 pm
Closed on Sundays and national holidays

GALLERYYSKE and PHOTOINK are pleased to present *The Cinema Travellers*, an exhibition of colour photographs by Amit Madheshiya. The photographic project began in 2008 and grew into the award winning documentary film by the same name, co-directed with Shirley Abraham.

For nearly seven decades now, travelling cinemas have been transporting the magic of movies to audiences across rural India. Travelling as part of old religious fairs, they bring the big screen magic to millions, as an annual treat. However, with changing technologies and multiplexes, these cinemas have started to lose their patrons who prefer watching films on DVDs and mobile phones.

This project is homage to a dying tradition of cinema culture, to the era when huge tents were hitched to the back of gigantic trucks and films were screened using hand-cranked projectors. Illuminated by the projected light of the screen, Madheshiya focuses our attention on faces in the audience whose expressions of awe, delight, bewilderment and melancholy make for an unforgettable ensemble of human emotions.

BIOGRAPHY

Amit Madheshiya (b.1982) is an award winning, internationally acclaimed photographer and filmmaker based in Mumbai. He graduated with a BA (Hons) in English Literature from Hindu College, New Delhi (2004) and an MA in Mass Communication from AJK MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (2006). He began working on the Travelling Cinema project in 2008. Photographs from this project won the World Press Photo in 2011, World Photography Award in 2009 and 2011 and Grand Prize at the Humanity Photo Awards in 2009.

In 2011, Madheshiya began working on the film, *The Cinema Travellers*, co-directed with Shirley Abraham, which premiered as an Official Selection at Cannes Film Festival 2016, to a standing ovation. It won the Special Jury Prize for L'Oeil d'or: Le Prix du documentaire. The film continues to have a prestigious festival run playing at eighty film festivals worldwide. It is the only Indian documentary to have achieved the rare festival trifecta of Cannes, Toronto and New York Film Festival. The film has won thirteen awards, including the recent 64th National Film Award in India.

Amit Madheshiya is a fellow of the Sundance Institute, MacArthur Foundation, Goethe Institut, India Foundation for the Arts, Arts Council England, National Foundation of India and the University of Heidelberg.