Celebrating India's Shared Culture and Religious Traditions

An event with filmmaker Yousuf Saeed

Friday, April 26, 12:00-1:30 pm
Emerson 305

Please join us for a screening of a selection of short films on South Asian religious traditions and pluralistic culture, and a discussion with the director, Yousuf Saeed. The program includes:

(1) *'Basant'* is a film about the spring festival of *Basant* being celebrated by Muslims and Hindus at the Sufi shrine of Nizamuddin Aulia in Delhi *(13 mins)*

(2) *'Sufi Sama'* explores the tradition of music and recital of poetry by Sufis, especially Amir Khusrau of Delhi, and how it evolved into the present day *qawwali (12 mins)*

(3) *'Qasba Sanskriti – Amroha'* looks at the shared cultural spaces and harmony between Hindu and Muslim residents of Amroha, a small town in North India *(36 mins)*

(4) *'Hindu religious books in Urdu'* is a video about early 20th-century popular print culture in the Urdu language that also featured Hindu religious books *(5 mins)*

(5) *'Meetings at the Crossroads'* introduces Indo-Persian culture as being the result of centuries-old confluence of cultural trends of Central and South Asia *(6:30 mins)*

(6) *'Jannat ki Rail'* is a short music video celebrating popular Islam in India through devotional song and poster art *(7 mins)*

Yousuf Saeed is an independent filmmaker and researcher based in New Delhi, India. His short films and documentaries, including *Inside Ladakh*, *Basant*, *A Life in Science-Yashpal*, and the *Train to Heaven*, have been shown at numerous film festivals, academic venues and on TV channels. His recent work is *Khayal Darpan*, a feature length documentary film about the state of classical music in Pakistan. Yousuf is also the author of *Muslim Devotional Art in India* (Routledge, 2012, 2018) and *South Asia's Islamic Popular Art* (2019), and manages *Tasveer Ghar*, a digital archive of India's popular visual art, and *ektara.org*, an online magazine. More details about Yousuf's work are at http://yousufsaeed.com.