

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Published Date: | 11 Dec 2023 | Publication: | The Telegraph [Kolkata] |
| Journalist: | Bureau | Page No: | 3 |
| MAV/CCM: | 959,616/133.28 | Circulation: | 25,000 |

WHAT SUP

Following the debut edition's raging success last year, Emami Art Experimental Film Festival (EAEFF) returned as a five-day event from November 22 to 26. Conceived by Ushmita Sahu, director and head curator of Emami Art, this year, the scope of the festival grew to encompass 22 films in the competitive section by a jury of Indian filmmaker Ashish Avikunthak, Canadian experiential filmmaker and Professor of Film Production at NSCAD University, Solomon Nagler and EAEFF 23 festival director, Raju Roychowdhury.

Additionally, the jury selected two films, *HYPNAGOGIA* by Tushar Nongthombam from Imphal, Manipur, in the short to mid-duration category along with *I Wonder If Daylights Were White Nights or Something Childish But Very Natural* by Sibi Sekar from Chennai, Tamil Nadu in the long duration category for two awards of excellence. The films selected by the jury for the competitive section included *Ankai-Tankai* by Mansingh Chandravanshi, *Baauji* by Vikram Singh, *Bela* by Prantik Basu, *Dustbin of a Middle-Class Family* and *Dustbin of a Politician* by Parashar Naik, *Flesh in Flux* by Prerit Jain, among many others.

In the curated session, Indonesian artist and filmmaker Riar Rizaldi, brought a selection of films from Southeast Asia, focusing on Indonesia, that investigate, interpret, and create myths, either directly or indirectly, with various approaches. Mumbai and Berlin-based Harkat, an international boutique arts studio, brought a lecture screening, presenting short films from the lab and speaking about the context of the works. Solomon Nagler, Canadian experiential filmmaker and professor of film production at NSCAD University, curated an anthology of Canadian

EMAMI ART EXPERIMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL SHOWCASED EXPERIMENTAL AND INDEPENDENT FILMS FROM ACROSS INDIA



Astrid with German artist/filmmaker Wolfgang Lehmann

Filmmakers and cinephiles at the inauguration of Emami Art Experimental Film Festival

Richa Agarwal, CEO, Emami Art inaugurates the festival with Astrid Wege, director, Goethe Institut. She said, "The second edition of the Emami Art Experimental Festival comes with an astonishing number of films, curated programs and masterclasses. The festival started focusing mainly on filmmakers from the East and Northeastern regions, but this year, it has expanded to the all-India level, receiving almost 300 experimental and independent films from all over the country. Although the festival started as a venture to create a platform for emerging video artists and filmmakers from the eastern region, with the overwhelming response and participation by the students, academicians, cinephiles, and artists, we expanded the second edition of the festival to all-India levels."

experimental films. German artist/filmmaker Wolfgang Lehmann was the EAEFF 23 Filmmaker in Focus and he presented a selection of films and two masterclasses.

The festival also saw a special screening of Argentinian experimental filmmaker and musician Claudio Caldini's 2022 short film *Promesa* as a tribute to



Stills of films showcased at Emami Art Experimental Film Festival

the master filmmaker.

"Emami Art Experimental Film Festival is envisioned as a discursive space for understanding moving images as an art form. In a country where films are integral to culture and society, there is a lacuna of platforms that recognise and support experimental, alternative, independent films that defy categorisation. The experiences of this part of the world and its various visual representations need serious recognition and appreciation. As a curator, I firmly believe that it is vital to have interdisciplinary dialogues for expanding any form of artistic practice and to have exposure to the contemporary experimental practices happening in our time," said Ushmita Sahu, director and head curator of Emami Art.

Pictures: B Halder