



# 12 Moons Film Lounge

## 11<sup>th</sup> Moon: 7.11.–6.12.2018 Thirddness, Gender and Sexuality in Pakistan

### *Aks – Urdu für „Reflexion“*

For the 11<sup>th</sup> Moon, Schwules Museum teams up with the *TransFormations – Trans \* Film Festival Berlin* and allows for an extraordinary exchange with the *Aks International Minorities Festival Pakistan*. In Pakistan, the *Aks Festival* contributes to examining the life experiences of queers and trans\* people. With its diverse films, arts and discourse program, it confronts the festival audience with global human rights issues and questions normative constructions. Selected films – which were running at the *Aks Festival* – by directors from Pakistan and the Pakistan Diaspora, amongst other material, will be shown in the *12 Moons Film Lounge*. The film program will be supported by an exclusive exhibition in the adjacent Project Space (29.11.–6.12.) that will, amongst other material, include photographs by Nadia Horsted-Narejo, who documented the festival in 2016.

The films in the 11<sup>th</sup> program of the *12 Moons Film Lounge* present interpretations of the gender and sexuality spectrum and to enable a dialogue on queer and indigenous trans\*gender culture of the global south. The selected films and artistic works pay tribute to the diverse dialogue amongst queer and trans\* cultures around the world. The installation will open up new ways for museum visitors to understand queer and transgender representations that are significantly different from the traditional LGBTQIA+ representations of the global north. The entire program of the 11<sup>th</sup> Moon thus offers opportunities to reflect on the extraordinary commitment and achievements of the many artists and activists who are building bridges between discriminated minorities and the mainstream society with the *Aks Festival* in Pakistan.

## Film Selection



### Hide and Seek

by Saad Khan & Saadat Munir  
2013, 20 min  
Urdu and Punjabi with English subtitles

*Hide and Seek* shows the secret, yet open lives of a group of Pakistani gender and sexual minorities, raising questions about transgender activism, religion, underground gay life, social acceptance and collective familial customs of Khawaja Sira (indigenous transgender culture) in urban Pakistan.



### Katchi

by Amina Malik  
2015, 12 min  
Urdu with English subtitles

*Katchi* tells the story of young Saad, who does not pass the gender binary. Growing up in a middle-class-family, and striving for his true self, Saad encounters several gruesome events of bullying and being molested by other boys in school, and faces rejection and intolerance from the family. His mother discreetly acknowledges her son's desires of being different and tries to comfort him lovingly.



### From AM to PM - A look into Ishaq's life

by Alizeb Raees  
2018, 10 min  
Punjabi ith English subtitles

*From AM to PM* is an intimate look into the life of Ishaq, who must maintain a balance between providing for his family and following his desire to become part of the Khawaja Sira community. Ishaq is married with one child: while leading a married life by day, as the night falls, he follows his heart to where it belongs – being with his transgender friends in Lahore.

## About Aks Festival



The *Aks International Minorities Festival*, founded in April 2014, is a global human rights initiative that promotes socio-political and cultural dialogue. The organization campaigns for the visibility of minorities and marginalized groups and communities. The *Aks Festival* features films that are accompanied by discussions and debates, and it organizes theme-based workshops and performing arts events on topics that affect minorities and marginalized groups. The festival is Pakistan's most connected and inclusive festival and unique in its form.

[www.aksfestival.com](http://www.aksfestival.com)

## Event

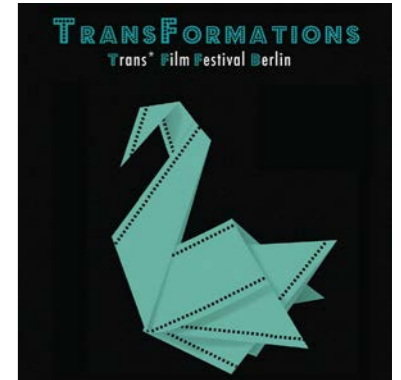
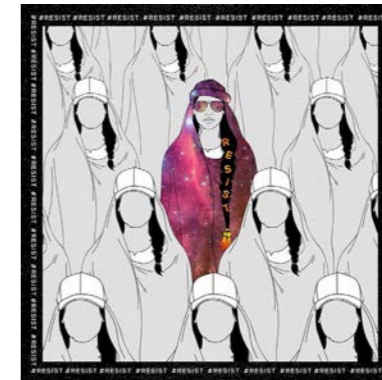
6.12.2018, 7pm

Artivism – A Talk with artists and activists about art and human rights

*Artivism* connects art and activism. It focuses on how art in its multiple forms can embrace political intention, or how political action can become creative, poetic, sensual. *Artivism* looks for new ways of political intervention, opens up new forms of disobedience and action that move beyond traditional paradigms of activism. *Aks International Minorities Festival* embodies *artivism* as a tool that intersects art and film with ongoing political dialogue for human rights. A talk with artists/activists from Pakistan and the Pakistan Diaspora on how intersectional art with a political agenda is created to pass under strictly controlled circumstances. The artists will share their individual experiences of political activism and their achievements.

With Saadat Munir, Neeli Rana and Mehlab Jameel. The talk will be moderated by Dr. Farzada Faarkhoi in English language.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Moon is a cooperation between *Schwules Museum*, *TransFormations - Trans\* Film Festival Berlin* and *Aks International Minorities Festival*. The program was made possible with the kind support of *Goethe-Institut Pakistan*.



## 12 Moons

### A year-long program featuring films by feminist filmmakers and video artists

For *12 Moons*, one of the exhibition rooms at Schwules Museum is transformed into a film lounge inviting visitors to encounter various cinematic formats and international (queer) feminist positions. The film lounge is open during regular Museum opening hours, with each new moon initiating a new program cycle.

The series is a yearlong intervention against the under-representation of women's\* perspectives, specifically in media and museum contexts, but also in the arts and society overall. Month by month, the screenings raise questions about the construction and communication of forms of *femininity\_ies*, and also gauge the potential of an alternative gaze.

In search of classics in lesbian and feminist film history, of contemporary queer positions and of the voices of women\* of color, we will turn to the OWLs (Older Wiser Lesbians) and talk to experts of porn film. We will dig through archives and visit festivals and ask the communities about the stories that need to be seen and heard.

The selected films provide insights into everyday lives and desires, they question relationship structures and power constellations. A critical eye is cast on societal pressures, while times of uprising and resistance against coercive gender norms offer inspiration. The utopian concepts and moments of healing emerging from the selected films are testimonies to the global struggles of women\* for respect, self-determination and spaces to unfold.

*12 Moons* is funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe as part of the project *Year of the Women\**.

#### Team

Curator 11<sup>th</sup> Moon: Aks Int. Minorities Festival [Saadat Munir]

Project curator: Vera Hofmann

Assistance: Felix Roadkill

Scenography with Carolin Gießner and Théo Demans

**Sun, Mon, Wed & Fri: 2-6pm,  
Thu: 2-8pm, Sat: 2-7pm,  
Tue: closed**

**7,50 € (4 € reduced)**

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schwulesmuseum.de**