


Salon

Spring

2023



Autoethnographic Films from Tibet

**presented by
Yi Cui**

March 23, 2023

6-7pm: Open Studio
with Project
Space resident
Eduardo L Rivera

7-9pm: film
screening in the
microcinema

Visual Studies Workshop
31 Prince Street
Rochester, NY

Suggested: \$10

Program

***Through the Looking Glass*, Yi Cui, 2017 (14 min)**

On a high-land Tibetan pasture, a screening event unfolds quietly. Monks, herdsman and their families gather by the screen to observe life captured through their own lenses.

***Yak Dung*, Dhazey, 2016 (45 min)**

Young Tibetan herdsman Dhazey takes the viewers on a special tour full of pleasant surprises: how Tibetans cannot live without yak dung. With temperatures falling as low as minus 40oC on the Tibetan plateau, yak dung is a valuable heating source for herdsman. A non-polluting fuel, it is used to burn offerings to the gods and to light oil lamps. Children make toys out of yak dung, while artists sometimes sculpt figurines of the Buddha with it. It is also used in construction and in medicine.

***The Tourists*, Dhukar Kyab, 2017 (16 min)**

A group of Tibetans are guiding tourists through the beautiful land of Nyanpo Yuzee. One of them, the young herdsman Dhukar Kyab, curiously observed the interaction between the locals and the outsiders through the lens of his video camera.

Yi Cui (China/USA) is a filmmaker and educator whose poetic films combine traditions of essay, ethnography and experimental filmmaking. Cui spent several years in Tibet working with the filmmaking program "From Our Eyes" which supports indigenous communities to produce auto-ethnographic films. This program presents a selection of short films made by Tibetan filmmakers reflecting upon daily life, as well as Cui's own films about her experiences working among monks, herdsman and their families on a highland Tibetan pasture.



Top: Still from *Yak Dung* (2016); Bottom: Still from *The Tourists* (2017)
Cover: Still from *Through the Looking Glass* (2017), courtesy Icarus Films

The VSW Salon is a bi-monthly engagement in the VSW microcinema featuring film screenings, artist talks, Community Curator events, performances, photo presentations and conversations. VSW Salon showcases the work of local and national artists, and invites them to present their work in an intimate “microcinema” equipped to show 16mm, Super 8, digital photography and video on state of the art equipment.



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