

'The Work They Say is Mine'

Introductory notes for screening at Iniva, London

Screening details

- 'Who Takes the Rap – Immigration', by Lai Ngan Walsh with the Women & the Law Collective, UK, 1986
- 'Sari Red' by Pratibha Parmar, UK, 1988
- 'Sudeuropa' by Maria Iorioa and Raphael Cuomo, Switzerland / Netherlands, 2007

Introduction

From the recent past to this passing moment, these three films delimit a zone where the politics of migration and gender are transmuted into conflictual strategies of staging visibility, with visibility the decisive factor in what gets represented as history.

Power operates in plain sight, hidden from all, while staying out of view is the basis of both extreme control and relative freedom for people criminalized by the only needs that matter, those of the global economy and security states. The aporetic poetics of these works do not set out to portray so much as enter into, and depart from, the critical mediations of the archive, the news media and the cultural institution, and of course the camera itself.

They raise a set of trenchant, if at times oblique, questions about how far visibility can go, when it's inscribed into the nexus of inclusion/exclusion showing only that which can already everywhere be seen.