

Acknowledgements

ReFocus: The Films of Sohrab Shahid Saless has been developed as part of my ongoing practice-based research on the representation of diaspora and double agency within the medium of the moving image. The initial starting point was a personal fascination with the work of this remarkable filmmaker, which led to the development of the first UK retrospective on his work (co-curated with Nikolaus Perneczky, October 2017 to January 2018), alongside the first English-language book on the director. During the retrospective, eleven films were screened at three sites – Close-Up Cinema (East London), Institute of Contemporary Art (Central London) and Goethe-Institut London (West London) – to reach as wide an audience as possible and share our admiration for Shahid Saless's outstanding practice. We are pleased to report that the project was a great success.

Through *ReFocus: The Films of Sohrab Shahid Saless*, its selected chapters and contributions from remarkable scholars, you will notice the unique condition of Shahid Saless's films as a stateless archive and will be provided with a deeper insight into the filmmaker's practice, as well as the notion of curating stateless moving images.

This project has been made possible through the generous support of many individuals and institutes. I would like to thank Professor Fran Lloyd, Professor Stephen Barber, Gillian Leslie, Gary D. Rhodes, Robert Singer, Aras Khatami, Vahid Alaghband, Ezzidin Alwan, Helen Glenn, Jane Pavitt and Jo Reeves, as well as Kingston University's Visual and Material Culture Research Centre, Iran Heritage Foundation, Art Council England, Edinburgh University Press and Kingston School of Art, for their invaluable help and advice throughout its genesis.