

7 ISLANDS AND A METRO

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'Seven Islands and a Metro' is a hard-hitting, yet lyrical take on Mumbai's turbulent story. Where the city's islands become touchstones for seven significant moments in its life to generate a tantalizing mix of images, anecdotes and information.

Waves of migration, regularly hitting the city's muddy shores all through the centuries, have left behind memories and mind-sets that still influence Mumbai. The film explores them through a touch of poetry, a bit of drama and mostly through unsettling conversations with its citizens. To reveal the contrary worldviews that make up Mumbai's rambling public sphere. One that is as fragmented - and islanded - as it is cohesive - glued together by an abstract affection for the city.

'Seven Islands and a Metro' takes you through Mumbai's streets so intimately you can smell them. It uncovers secrets from the past and constructs riddles for the present in a way that each frame surprises, puzzles and intrigues. Graveyards speak, application forms torment, Bombay ducks glisten, fisherwomen grumble, disembodied maps of the city haunt, futuristic vehicles rumble through the night, nights dance crazily and dancer's bristle with indignation. Two extraordinary storytellers gather these tumultuous moments to re-tell their stories. After all, the city hasn't changed that much - it still erupts into violence; people riot, the poor are destroyed, women get a raw deal - and stories have to be repeated, once again.

The film pays a rich obeisance to the goddesses that guard Mumbai's porous boundaries and personify its unpredictable moods, even though it disapproves of their cruel ways. After all, at the end of the day, the goddesses remain, like the resilient city itself, extraordinarily powerful. But each citizen, like the film, maintains the right to disobey.