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The Global Film Initiative Completes Donation of Global Lens Films to MoMA
The Museum of Modern Art in New York City to archive 96 feature films from 38 nations around the world

San Francisco, CA – December 11, 2013 – The Global Film Initiative is pleased to announce the donation of 76 foreign-language feature films, from its Global Lens library, to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. This is the second donation to MoMA of Global Lens films, approximately 80% in 35mm format; the first donation of 20 films occurred in 2004 and 2005.

The 2013 donation completes the Global Film Initiative’s commitment to provide permanent preservation and curatorship for its library of 96 award-winning independent films, by filmmakers from countries around the world, including India, Vietnam, Chile, Lebanon, Algeria, Brazil, Thailand, Angola, Croatia, Argentina, Tajikistan, Indonesia and South Africa.

The donation comes as the culmination of the Initiative’s decade-long partnership with MoMA, where the Global Lens film series has opened its national tour each year since inception. “This donation comes at a time when filmmaking is undergoing fundamental change,” says Susan Weeks Coulter, Board Chair of The Global Film Initiative. “The digital revolution, which has been underway for several years, especially in Asia, has changed the way films are made and presented. The MoMA archive will preserve an important phase in the history of filmmaking in the developing world, where film production and preservation facilities are scarce.”

The collection includes 16 films from Africa; 24 from Asia, including 8 by Chinese filmmakers; 29 from Latin America and the Caribbean; 10 from Central and Eastern Europe, and 17 from the Middle East, including 7 by Iranian filmmakers. The Global Film Initiative’s mission in acquiring the films was to encourage a sustained relationship between American audiences and films from the developing world. The Museum of Modern Art, through its prestigious Film and Video department, Library and Archive, will continue this mission through annual screenings and preservation of these 35mm- and digitally-formatted films.

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The Global Film Initiative was founded in 2002 as a U.S.-based 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to promote cultural literacy, diplomacy and education through film. Since its establishment, the Initiative has supported hundreds of filmmakers with grants and networking opportunities, and has presented its signature film series, Global Lens, in the U.S. and select international locations via a diverse network of artistic, educational, cultural and diplomatic partners. For more information about the Global Lens film series and Global Film Initiative programs, please visit: http://www.globalfilm.org

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