

Feminist documentary practice

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Duration of video clip: 1 minute 13 seconds

There's a lot to say about Feminist documentary, but in relationship to ethics, what seems particularly important is that it was initially theorised as part of a political practice by some members of a film culture who are traditionally the object of a documentary gaze, who, historically - and it continues to this day - to be oppressive towards those who it looks at. Feminist documentary asks the question: what does it feel like to be seen, and not to look?, by those of us who have spent their whole life in that condition. And when we took up cameras to make documentaries as Feminists, we didn't simply want to reverse that. Hah - now you get to be ... now I have the camera and you're the object of my gaze. We wanted to imagine a gaze that might not simply diminish, humiliate, objectify, or distance the person being seen, from the person who holds the camera.