HUL SENGEL: THE SPIRIT OF THE SANTAL REVOLUTION

Hul: lo spirito della rivolta Santal

Produced on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Hul Rebellion the Santal aborigines mounted in 1855-1856 against the East India Company, a crucial moment in the long march toward independence from colonial repression, this documentary portrays the spirit and the unfolding of the events still vividly remembered by many aborigine peoples. Filmed in the same locations where the uprising took place and with several Adivasis living in New Delhi, and shown on Indian TV, the film combines rare archival film material with interviews with some of the leaders’ descendants, offering an eloquent reflection on the government’s authoritarian style, which has remained such, despite decades of independence. The film was premiered at the conference “Reinterpreting Adivasi Movement in South Asia” by the Centre for World Environmental History of the University of Sussex.

Daniel Rycroft è docente per arte e cultura asiatica alla School of World Art Studies, dell’Università di East Anglia, Norwich, UK. Dal 2003 è ricercatore all’Università di Sussex dove ha iniziato il progetto di ricerca su “Subalternità e rappresentazione visuale in India”. In stretta collaborazione con la federazione indiana delle popolazioni indigeni e tribali (New Delhi) ha diretto e prodotto il film Hul Sengel: the Spirit of the Santal Revolution nel centocinquantenario della ribellione Hul, un movimento che continua a chiedere l’autodeterminazione degli adivasi nello stato di Jharkhand (nell’India centro-orientale). Nel suo recente libro Representing Rebellion: Visual Aspects of Counter-insurgency in Colonial India, pubblicato dalla Oxford University Press, analizza la storia coloniale dello Jharkhand dell’Ottocento.

Dr Daniel Rycroft is Lecturer in the Arts and Cultures of Asia at the School of World Art Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. Since 2003 he has been a research fellow at the University of Sussex where he undertook a research project on Subalternity and Visual Representation in India. Here, he produced and directed the film Hul Sengel: the Spirit of the Santal Revolution in close collaboration with the Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (New Delhi) on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Santal Rebellion, a movement which continues to inspire demands for Adivasi self-rule in Jharkhand State (eastern-central India) today. His recent book entitled Representing Rebellion: Visual Aspects of Counter-insurgency in Colonial India published by Oxford University Press (2006) analyses depictions of the colonial encounter in nineteenth century Jharkhand.