CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 9
20-23 MARCH 2019
AUDITORIUM SANTA MARGHERITA, VENEZIA
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SHORT *meets* MAARIA SAYED

Among our most important guests of this ninth edition of the **Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival**, there is certainly the Indian director **Maaria Sayed**. We will be able to watch two of her most renowned shorts: *Aabida* (2013) and *Chudala* (2017). A special program by **Cecilia Cossio**.

Selected among the twenty-four most promising Asian filmmakers and accepted in the *Asian Film Academy 2016* programme, one would say that Maaria Sayed was born to be a director. After brilliantly graduating in English literature at Mumbai University, soon enough her talent for painting and her theatrical training brought her to understand that cinema would be the ideal medium to combine and give form to her various interests. She attended and graduated from *London Film School*, she worked as a writer for networks such as *Discovery Channel* and *National Geographic* and she also established her own production company, *Draw4Films*, together with Alessandro Alpini, who also graduated from the *London Film School*. In 2013 Maaria filmed her first short film, *Aabida*; in 2016 she completed *Chudala,* her second short; in 2017 her latest work, *Wai guo ren* (*An Alien*), a documentary set in Singapore.
In 2017 she was also awarded the *Short Film Pitch* at the Fajr Film Festival (Iran).

SCREENING PROGRAMME:

AABIDA by Maaria SAYED (India/UK, 2013, 26')
One day in Aabida's life, a Muslim widow of a policemen killed in the 2008 attacks in Mumbai, which caused over 160 casualties. While recalling her past during an interview with a journalist, Aabida discovers that her husband's death has in a way released her from a tyrannical and insensitive master. But will this experience of freedom be accepted by society?

CHUDALA by Maaria SAYED (India, 2017, 14')
A Sanskrit myth tells the story of Chudala, a woman who turns into a young ascetic boy to provide her husband, King Shikhidhvaja, with true knowledge. Similarly, Rukhsana, a young Muslim woman who wishes to communicate with her widowed father, must come back to him as Rehan, a man. But Rehan, too, remembers having once been a woman.