

ABOUT 'WAR FLOWERS' CURATOR VIVEKA MELKI



WAR Flowers: A Touring Art Exhibition curator Viveka Melki (pron. ViVEKa MELkee) is a Canadian filmmaker and screenwriter. She has lived, worked and travelled in cultures where repressive regimes are dominant. From these experiences are born her projects around conflict - and the capacity of the human spirit for resilience. Reflecting on the subject of war, she says: *"My goal as an artist is to tell history using the tools of our time. Our voice as artists in this era is unique. How we look at history, our understanding of the past, determines and defines the attachment to that story by audiences today. I bring my film experience into all my work so, in the end, I am a storyteller. I always ask one question when looking at Canadian history - what did it feel like? And if we can capture a fraction of that and bring you into that experience, then we have succeeded."*

Born in The Gambia, West Africa of Brazilian/Lebanese descent, and educated in the UK before immigrating to Canada, Melki sees the world through a multicultural lens. In 2014, she directed the two-part series *War Correspondence* (Radio-Canada, RDI). Her feature-length documentary *After Circus* (2015) received acclaim after screenings at several North American film festivals, including *Hot Docs* in Toronto and the Rencontres Internationales du Documentaire de Montréal, as well as at the prestigious Sunny Side of the Doc Festival in La Rochelle, France. It was broadcast across Canada on CBC's *documentary* Channel in June 2016.

Melki makes films within Canadian Francophone culture as well. Her 2017 documentary *Carricks: dans le sillage des Irlandais* (Radio-Canada & RDI) tells the tragic story of Irish immigration to Canada in 1847, and the Francophone-Irish diaspora in Canada.

Viveka is currently working with the New Chapters Canada Council for the Arts on her new docu-animation, *Alouette*, about the Asia-Pacific experience during the Second World War. She is also directing a new docudrama feature, "The Fence", on the Battle of Hong Kong, for *documentary* Channel.
<http://vivekamelki.com/>