

THE LOOKING MACHINE

ESSAYS ON CINEMA, ANTHROPOLOGY
AND DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

In this collection of wide-ranging essays, David MacDougall provides unique insights into the history of documentary and calls for a re-investment in the ideas that originally inspired it.

As one of the world's leading ethnographic filmmakers and writers on film, MacDougall explores the complex relationships between human perception, the senses, and the mind and eye behind the camera, while drawing on his own filmmaking experience creating such award-winning classics of ethnographic cinema as *To Live with Herds*, *The Wedding Camels*, *Photo Wallahs*, *Doon School Chronicles* and *Gandhi's Children*.

MacDougall urges us to consider how the documentary form can become a 'cinema of consciousness' that more accurately reflects our everyday lives, particularly in this era of reality television, historical re-enactments, designer packaging and corporate authorship. He defends the principles that inspired documentary's early practitioners and also considers issues such as the pressure for self-censorship and the inherent ethnocentrism of our own society and the societies we film.

This book adds new thought-provoking commentaries on cinema to those that readers will know from MacDougall's previous volumes of essays, and is essential reading for students in cinema studies, filmmaking and visual anthropology.

David MacDougall is an Honorary Professor in the Research School of Humanities and the Arts at the Australian National University, Canberra

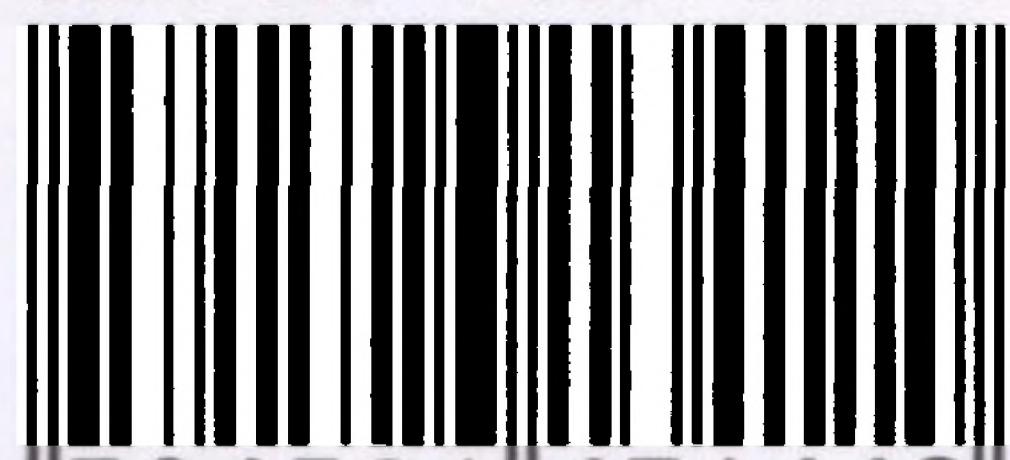
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