



**PITTSBURGH FILMMAKERS / CENTER FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES
BECOME CAMERA, AN EXHIBITION & PERFORMANCE SERIES BY SAMIR GANGWANI**

Samir Gangwani activates Melwood Gallery and the Pittsburgh Filmmakers campus with a video installation and interactive performances on December 9, 2017, January 25, 2018, and February 9, 2018.

PITTSBURGH, PA (December 1, 2017) – Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts (PF/PCA) is pleased to announce *Become Camera*, a solo exhibition by emerging, Pittsburgh-based artist Samir Gangwani. Gangwani will debut a multi-channel video installation at Pittsburgh Filmmakers' Melwood Gallery that will evolve over the course of his exhibition through performances using strategically-placed security cameras, Snapchat, and live and pre-recorded video. *Become Camera* invites the public to participate in these performances as both spectators and participants in an increasingly surveilled digital and physical world. Gangwani will be making physical and virtual appearances in the Melwood Screening Room and other locations in the Filmmakers building throughout the run of the show.



Samir Gangwani's *Always Watching Part I: A Conversation with the TSA* ([download](#))

An opening reception and performance will be held Saturday, December 9, 2017 from 6:30pm - 9:00pm and is free and open to the public. A second durational performance will occur Thursday, January 25, 2018 from 2:00pm - 10pm. The closing reception and Gangwani's final performance will be held Friday, February 9, 2018 from 6:00pm - 9:30pm.

Become Camera is an extended meditation from a series Gangwani began in 2016 titled *Always Watching Part I: A Conversation with the TSA*. In addition to exhibiting *My Friends* and *Recording in Progress*—selfies and filmed greetings with surveillance cameras and monitors—the artist will be creating and performing a new durational work, *Staring Contest*, that invites audience members to engage in a digital staring contest with the artist that exists both in the gallery and live via the Snapchat app.



Samir Gangwani's *Always Watching Part I: A Conversation with the TSA* ([download](#))



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"The everyday person is being constantly surveilled whether they like it or not via phones, security cameras, laptops, satellite imaging, etcetera. As a brown man with a beard I experience a heightened form of surveillance. I'm not only watched by technology; I'm being watched everywhere I go by those on the streets, in stores, and in restaurants because of a stigma created solely on my appearance. Some would profile me as a terrorist," says Gangwani.

The Melwood Gallery at Pittsburgh Filmmakers supports the presentation of new work by artists, members, and students working across traditional and emergent media at the intersection of print, photography, and the moving image. The Melwood Gallery, located next to the Melwood Screening Room on the second floor of the Pittsburgh Filmmakers campus at 477 Melwood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, is open Monday through Wednesday from 9am - 5pm and Thursday through Sunday from 9am - 9pm.

(hi-res images for press - [download](#))

About Samir Gangwani

Originally from North Carolina, Samir Gangwani is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Pittsburgh, PA. His most recent performances have been presented at the Queens Museum, Panoply Performance Laboratory (PPL), Future Tenant, and the Woods Cooperative. Gangwani is an alumni of University of North Carolina School of the Arts School of Music and is currently pursuing a student-defined major at Carnegie Mellon University in Experimental Composition and Performance.

About Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts

PF/PCA is a community-based institution that offers accredited and non-accredited visual arts courses, access to equipment and studio space, fellowship and exhibition programs, a robust screening program that includes the annual Three Rivers Film Festival, a Youth Media program featuring media arts classes for children ages 5-17, and sales of work by our artist members in our on-site shop. Annually PF/PCA serves 100,000 individuals of all ages.

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