



IDSFFK

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DOCUMENTARY
& **SHORT** FILM FESTIVAL
OF KERALA

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Remembering K R Mohanan: The Spokesperson of the Malayalam Parallel Cinema

“One by one I see disappearance...” said Amrit Gangar, film curator and activist, while commemorating the loss of great filmmaker K R Mohanan at the K.R Mohanan Memorial gathering arranged during the 12th IDSFFK at Kairali Theatre on 25th June 2019. ‘I could listen to sounds of silence of Mohanan, which emerge from his lovely, effective smile. He was one of the Marxists I adored, for he is so compassionate. There was turmoil inside him, and that I think made ‘Swaroopam’ possible. Films like ‘Swaroopam’ and ‘Ashwadhama’ is not nostalgia, its living. The young filmmakers have to carry that legacy forward’, Gangar added.

V K Joseph, President of FIPRESCI India Chapter was there at the meeting and he said that K R Mohanan was a down to earth activist and they still feel his presence amongst them. He used to spent time with the delegates, in and around the festival surroundings’.

Chelavoor Venu, Vice-President of FFSI Keralam shared his memories about KR Mohanan; that even though Mohanan was present in the film field for more than 40 years, he made only three films that made a lasting impression. He was a filmmaker who could have made more films, but time didn’t give him that chance.

“K R Mohanan practised the art of minimum avoiding inessential and adding essential into his films...” shared Sunny Joseph, Cinematographer. His films are the evidence that cinema is an art of time and space, visible from his films. His thoughts were deep, both in real and reel..’ he added. The absence of Mohanan in film festivals makes a void among the minds of people who knew him. The simple and kind hearted man but, stood his stand when it concerned serious matters.

K R Mohanan was the former Chairman of Kerala State Chalachitra Academy who has won National and State Awards for his films. He only made three films ‘Ashwathama’, ‘Purushartham’ and ‘Swaroopam’ in his 40-year long film career. But he was an active participant in making documentaries. He was the Director of International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) and was part of different film festivals. He was one among the few filmmakers who walked along the path of innovative thinking and sensibilities.

Kamal, Director of Kerala State Chalachitra Academy and KG Mohan Kumar, FFSI Regional Secretary were also a part of this meeting and shared their grief in missing him and remembering the time they spent together. The event was jointly organised by Kerala State Chalachitra Academy and Federation of Film Societies (India) Keralam. ‘K.R Gouri Amma’ directed by K R Mohanan was screened at Kairali Theatre after the event.