



April 21, 2012

Asian American Writers' Workshop

Kaleidoscopic Kashmir

Mirza Waheed, Angana P. Chatterji, and Kanishka Raja

Once known for its majestic snow-capped Himalayas, Kashmir now hosts a militarized hotbed of insurgency and conflict between India, Pakistan, and China. Join us for an inter-disciplinary dialogue between three guests whose work shed light on Kashmir's complex identity. You'll hear stories of pre-partition India, lyrical accounts of village life, and one artist's juxtaposition of dense urban environment with idyllic vistas. BBC journalist and author Mirza Waheed will read from his novel, *The Collaborator*, which follows a teenage boy in the remote village of Nowgam on the disputed line of control, the India-Pakistan border in 1990s Kashmir amidst unceasing warfare. Scholar-activist Angana P. Chatterji, who founded the International People's Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Kashmir, will read from the Verso anthology *Kashmir: The Case for Freedom* and other works, speaking to Kashmir's culture of grief, the geopolitical impact of the conflict today, and the struggle for peace and justice. Kanishka Raja, the ICA Artist prize recipient who has been featured at the Greenberg Van Doren gallery, will project images of his painting's installation of Kashmir as it was imagined by pre-'80s Bollywood: as the hyper-romantic pastoral settings for the eastern equivalent of *The Sound of Music*.