

## AJAB SHAHAR - A NEW ARCHIVE OF BHAKTI POETRY AND SONG SHABNAM VIRMANI

by Shabnam Virmani

Shabnam will be giving a lecture/performance about Ajab Shahar, her soon-to-be unveiled web archive dedicated to Sufi, Baul and Bhakti poetry and song.

**About the artist:** Shabnam Virmani is a filmmaker and singer from India and director of the Kabir Project at the Srishti design institute in Bangalore. Stung by religious riots in her country in 2002, she set out on a series of journeys in quest of the 15th century mystic poet Kabir, exploring how his songs speak to questions of identity, religion, nationalism, impermanence and orality. Struck by the power and contemporary relevance of the poetry of Kabir and other mystics, Sufis and Bauls - the Kabir Project team has now been working for over 14 years in curating it through films, music CDs, books, festivals, workshops and an upcoming web archive. Inspired by the inclusive spirit of folk music, Shabnam took up playing the 5-stringed *tambura* herself and performs a wide repertoire of folk songs of mystic poets.

Place: South Asia Institute Room Z10

Date: Thursday, November 2nd 2017, 12-1 pm