

INDIA! ART ON THE MOVE

Migration and Contemporary Art

**One-day conference at ARKEN Museum of Modern Art
26 October 2012**

Speakers Mieke Bal, Suketu Mehta, Gayatri Sinha, Anne Ring Petersen, Stine Høholt

India is one of the countries in the world with the highest rate of migration. 25 million Indians live in more than 100 countries in all the continents. Today, human mobility is taking on more and more complex and dynamic forms and is thus breaking down traditional notions and concepts of home, belonging, cultural identity and cultural memory.

On the occasion of ARKEN's exhibition *INDIA : ART NOW* the museum is hosting the one-day conference *INDIA! ART ON THE MOVE – Migration & Contemporary Art*. With the conference, ARKEN wishes to investigate and discuss how phenomena such as globalisation and migration affect our life-modes, and how this is represented in Indian as well as in 'global' contemporary art. The conference focuses on two main issues within curatorial and aesthetic practice:

Transcultural Curating

- How can we develop curatorial models for showing art from different cultural spheres on the global art scene?
- What kind of discursive and conceptual framework can we work with and what are its potentials and challenges?

Contemporary Art Beyond the Local/Global

- What analytical tools should be brought into play when art becomes 'glocal' and 'migratory'?
- How are the cultural effects of migration and globalisation represented in 'global' contemporary art?

ARKEN

**INDIA
TODAY**
COPENHAGEN TOMORROW



PROGRAMME

- 9.30–10 Arrival, tea and coffee
- 10–10.15 Welcome **Christian Gether**, Aff. Professor, Director, ARKEN
- 10.15–10.30 Introduction **Camilla Jalving**, PhD, Curator, ARKEN (moderator)

TRANSCULTURAL CURATING

- 10.30–11.15 **Mieke Bal**, Professor, cultural theorist, critic, curator and video artist, *Art Moves*
- 11.15–12 **Gayatri Sinha**, art critic and independent curator, *Transcultural Curating of Art from India*
- 12–12.30 Discussion
- 12.30–13.45 Lunch break and exhibition *INDIA : ART NOW*

CONTEMPORARY ART BEYOND THE LOCAL/GLOBAL

- 13.45–14.15 **Stine Høholt**, PhD, Chief Curator, ARKEN, *INDIA : ART NOW at ARKEN*
- 14.15–15 **Anne Ring Petersen**, Associate Professor, dr.phil., PhD, University of Copenhagen, *The Artist as Migrant Worker? Rethinking Comparative Cultural Analysis in an Age of Intensified Globalisation and Migration*
- 15–15.20 Coffee break
- 15.20–16 **Suketu Mehta**, fiction writer and journalist, Associate Professor of Journalism at New York University, *Personal Geography: Experiencing the global/local*
- 16–16.30 Discussion
- 16.30–17 **Camilla Jalving** Conclusive remarks

Participation

The conference will take place at ARKEN Museum of Modern Art, Skovvej 100, 2635 Ishøj, Denmark. ARKEN is located 20 kilometres south of Copenhagen. The conference language will be English.

Registration

Participation is free of charge, but **registration is required by 12 October 2012**. Please contact Irene Olsen, iolsen@arken.dk, +45 43 57 34 05

About

The conference is organised by ARKEN in collaboration with Anne Ring Petersen, Associate Professor, dr.phil., PhD, Department of Arts and Cultural Studies, University of Copenhagen.

In connection with the conference, ARKEN will publish a theme issue of the research journal ARKEN Bulletin focusing on art and migration (March 2013).

Read more at www.arken.dk

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Mieke Bal is a cultural theorist, critic, curator and video artist. She is Professor of Theory of Literature at the University of Amsterdam and a founding Director of the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA). Her research emphases include classical antiquity, contemporary art, modern literature, (inter-)cultural theory, and the connection between verbal and visual art, migration and madness. In her work as a freelance curator and video artist, Bal works especially in the area of experimental documentary on the issue of migration (e.g. *State of Suspension*, 2009). Her video work on madness is a fiction based on true stories. See www.miekebal.org

Stine Høholt, PhD, is chief curator and head of the art department at ARKEN Museum of Modern Art. She has curated or co-curated more than 20 exhibitions on modern or contemporary art, most recently the current show *INDIA : ART NOW*. Co-editor of the research journal *ARKEN Bulletin*, which will be covering the topic art and migration in 2013.

Camilla Jalving (moderator), PhD, is curator at ARKEN Museum of Modern Art. As Post.Doc at ARKEN (2009-10) Jalving has been working on the UTOPIA project as researcher. She has written extensively on contemporary art (co-author of the book *Nybrud: Dansk kunst i 90erne*, 2006) and contributed to several journals, exhibition catalogues and anthologies. Jalving holds a PhD from University of Copenhagen with a dissertation on contemporary art and performativity published by Museum Tusulanum Press as *Værk som handling* in 2011.

Suketu Mehta is a writer based in New York City. Mehta is Associate Professor of Journalism at New York University. He was born in Kolkata, India, and raised in Bombay where he lived until his family moved to the New York area in 1977. His autobiographical account of his experiences in the city of Mumbai, *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*, was published by Random House in 2004.

Gayatri Sinha is an art critic and curator based in New Delhi. Her primary areas of enquiry are around the structures of gender and iconography, media, economics and social history. As a curator her work has cited the domains of photography and lens based work from archival and contemporary sources. She has curated extensively in India and abroad including at the India Art Summit and the Korean International Art Fair (2009) and edited, among others, *Voices of Change: 20 Indian Artists* (Marg, 2010) and *Art and Visual Culture in India 1857-2007* (Marg, 2009). As an art critic she wrote a column for the Indian Express and The Hindu, and has written monographs on the artists Krishen Khanna and Himmat Shah.

Anne Ring Petersen is an art historian and Associate Professor at the Department of Arts and Cultural Studies at the University of Copenhagen. She is coordinator of the interdisciplinary research network, *Network for Migration and Culture*, and she has published widely on modern and contemporary art in exhibition catalogues, anthologies and journals such as *Third Text*, *RIHA Journal* and *Column*. Recent publications include the anthology *Contemporary Painting in Context* (2010) and a monograph on installation art, *Installationskunsten mellem billede og scene (Installation Art between Image and Stage)*, 2009).