saloni mathur

FRAGILE INHERITANCE
READING ART CRITICISM IN INDIA

There has emerged a consensus in the past decade or so that art criticism today is in a perilous state. In these discussions, art criticism – destabilized by the globalization of contemporary art, and the dizzying circuitry of the internet age – is perceived to be directionless, in a state of world-wide crisis, and suffering from a loss of authority and respect. Yet, this narrative of a global crisis of criticism has been drawn almost exclusively from the figure of the critic and the voice of art criticism as it has emerged from the artistic milieus of Europe and America. This lecture turns, by contrast, to the Indian subcontinent to consider alternative procedures of thought and modes of art writing that support radical possibilities for art criticism as an intellectual practice. Mathur will highlight a project that is not ‘other’ to western art criticism, but whose critical force comes precisely out of the tensions produced by such entanglements and the frisson of their dialectical negotiation.

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