

VISUAL & MEDIA HISTORIES
SERIES EDITOR MONICA JUNEJA



no touching, no spitting, no praying
THE MUSEUM IN SOUTH ASIA

EDITORS
SALONI MATHUR AND KAVITA SINGH



This exciting volume offers a genuinely cross-cultural study of the museum today. Its methodological and theoretical interest reaches far beyond the South Asian context.

— **James Clifford**
University of California, Santa Cruz

Historically astute, empirically rich and theoretically informed, the essays in this collection expand our understanding of what constitutes a museum ... [T]his volume encourages us to rethink India's colonial past and the intersections of peoples and objects which have always made the museum a space of surprising encounters.

— **Annie E. Coombes**
Birkbeck College, University of London

This book offers a new perspective on the dynamic history of the museum as a cultural institution. Turning to the history and theory of the museum in South Asia, it traces for the first time its origin in the region as a tool of colonialism, its adoption as a vehicle of sovereignty in the nationalist movement, and its multifarious roles as a contemporary global form. Addressing themes within the museum such as alterity, spectatorship, curatorship, and display, the authors explore the way these invariably intersect with larger issues of democracy, citizenship, religion, nationalism, and capitalism. The volume provides fresh insights into the museum in South Asia and situates it within a broader global field.

The work will prove indispensable to scholars, researchers as well as professionals in museums and museum studies and allied areas of public culture, art and art history, sociology, social anthropology, and modern South Asia.

Saloni Mathur is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of California, Los Angeles.

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About the book

Contents

Contents

Plates

Acknowledgements

Preface • MONICA JUNEJA

Introduction • SALONI MATHUR & KAVITA SINGH

PART 1 inaugural formations

1 The Transformation of Objects into Artefacts, Antiquities and Art in 19th-century India • BERNARD COHN

2 The Museum in the Colony: Collecting, Conserving, Classifying • TAPATI GUHA-THAKURTA

3 Staging Science • GYAN PRAKASH

PART II national re-orientations

4 The Museum is National • KAVITA SINGH

5 Grace McCann Morley and the National Museum of India • KRISTY PHILLIPS

6 Museumising Modern Art: National Gallery of Modern Art, the Indian Case-Study • VIDYA SHIVADAS

PART III contemporary engagements

7 Museums are Good to Think: Heritage on View in India • ARJUN APPADURAI & CAROL A. BRECKENRIDGE

8 Remembering the Rural in Suburban Chennai: The Artisanal Pasts of DakshinaChitra • MARY HANCOCK

9 Reincarnations of the Museum: The Museum in an Age of Religious Revivalism • SALONI MATHUR & KAVITA SINGH

Museum Watching: An Introduction

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About the Series Editor

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