

The Progressive Genealogy: Art and Culture in Modern India

Thursday, October 25, 2018

11:00–11:15am

Opening remarks: Asia Society and Columbia University

11:15am–12:45pm

Panel I: The Progressive Artists' Group: Creating Modern India

This panel will explore the idea of the “progressive” Indian nation by concentrating on the artists included in Asia Society’s exhibition. Each panelist will debate the ideological implications of the Group’s artistic output at the dawn of the Nehruvian state.

Panelists:

Zehra Jumabhoy, Associate Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art, London | *A Progressive Indian Secularism?: Art & the Nation in the work of Bombay’s PAG*

Sonal Khullar, Associate Professor, Art History, University of Washington, Seattle | *The Progressive Effect: Other Histories of Modernism in India*

Karin Zitzewitz, Interim Chair and Associate Professor, South Asian Art, Michigan State University, East Lansing | *Secularity, Secularism, Secularization: Thinking Through the Progressive Artists Group*

Moderated by **Boon Hui Tan**, Vice President of Global Arts & Cultural Programs and Director of Asia Society Museum, New York

12:45–1:45pm Lunch

1:45–3:15pm

Panel II: Narratives of the Indian Modern

Looking beyond art history, this panel approaches the question of the modern, modernity, and ideas of “a modern Indian nation” from the perspectives of science, film, and literature.

Panelists:

Debashree Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Modern South Asian Studies, Columbia University, New York | *Progressive Media and the Bombay Left: An Untimely Topos*

Sonali Perera, Associate Professor, English, Hunter College, New York | *Beyond Conversations in Bloomsbury: Mulk Raj Anand and the Legacy of the All-India Progressive Writers Association*

Kavita Sivaramakrishnan, Associate Professor, Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University, New York | *A State of Irritation: The State, Medical Experts and the Making of the Social/National Body in India (1940-50s)*

Moderated by **Gauri Viswanathan**, Class of 1933 Professor in the Humanities and Director of the South Asia Institute, Columbia University, New York

3:15–3:30pm Break

3:30–5:00pm

Panel III: The Legacy of the Progressives

This panel will evaluate the legacy of the Progressive Artists’ Group by examining the impact they have had on the social and aesthetic landscape of India today, how their work stays relevant in the context of contemporary Indian art, and a wider narrative of progress forged by the Rockefellers in America.

Panelists:

Jitish Kallat, artist, Mumbai | *Here after Here*

Brinda Kumar, Assistant Curator, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York | *Indian Art and the Rockefellers: Parsing a Progressive Alignment*

Anupama Rao, TOW Associate Professor of History, Barnard College; Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University, New York | *Word, Image, World: Dalit Bombay and the Progressives*

Moderated by **Vishakha Desai**, President Emerita, Asia Society; Senior Advisor for Global Affairs and Senior Research Scholar in Global Studies, Columbia University, New York