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## International Departures

### Art in India after Independence

By **Devika Singh**

#### ABOUT THE BOOK

- A captivating and richly illustrated history of art in India since 1947.
- Engages with the many creators, critics and patrons of the post-war Indian art world, from K.G. Subramanyan, Zarina and Mulk Raj Anand to Isamu Noguchi, Le Corbusier, Clement Greenberg and more.
- Describes how artists in India participated in global modernism during a crucial period of decolonization and nation building.

In this captivating and richly illustrated account, Devika Singh presents together for the first time the work of Indian and foreign artists active in India after independence in 1947. The book engages with the many creators, critics and patrons of the post-war Indian art world, from K.G. Subramanyan, Zarina and Mulk Raj Anand to Isamu Noguchi, Le Corbusier and Clement Greenberg.

Singh opens up new ways of thinking about Indian art, closely examining artworks and analysing how they were received in India and abroad. Featuring a wealth of rare and previously unpublished images, this provocative new book explores how artists in India participated in global modernism during a crucial period of decolonization and nation building.

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Devika Singh** is Senior Lecturer in Curating at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London. She has published widely on Indian art and global modernism and was previously Curator of international art at Tate Modern.

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## REVIEWS

'An important departure in the study of post-Independence Indian art envisaged as an archive in transition between national prerogatives and foreign relations. Devika Singh's lively narrative explores the institutional trials and individual tensions that accompanied the legitimate emergence of Indian artists on the international stage. Read this impeccably researched study of cultural intersections and aesthetic innovations to observe the founding, and grounding, of an emancipatory political imagination.'

— Homi K. Bhabha,

**Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities, Harvard University**

'This highly original and fascinating work traces the story of interactions between Indians and the West in the formation of post-independence art in India. Not only will it become an indispensable text for art history, this richly illustrated work will be essential reading for all serious students of global modernism. An impressive achievement.'

— Partha Mitter, Emeritus Professor, Art History,

**University of Sussex and Adjunct Research Professor, Carleton University, Ontario**

'This captivating book reads like a living map of Indian modernisms. Devika Singh's transnational art history of mobility gives us a rare synopsis of the entangled routes of art – the activities of Western artists in India, processes of identity formation and politicization of Indian artists in Paris and London, and the traveling of exhibitions as part of India's international politics.'

— Christian Kravagna, Professor of Postcolonial Studies,

**Academy of Fine Arts Vienna**

'Devika Singh offers a major contribution to a new, transnational history of art. The first book to probe how a society, through its artistic community and practice, deconstructed Western discourses on the other and in the process re-appropriated its own culture, *International Departures* substantially revises the terms of the history of modern art and turns the tables on the critical uses of Western formalism under the shadow of Indian political motivations.'

— Zahia Rahmani, Scientific Advisor, Head of the Programme in Global Art History,

**National Institute for Art History (INHA), Paris**

'This 'captivating' and richly illustrated history of Indian art since 1947 describes how artists in India – both native and foreign-born – participated in the global modernist movement during a crucial period of decolonisation and nation building.'

— The Bookseller

'This ambitious study takes in a broad sweep of India's cultural life after Independence, looking equally at the role of homegrown talents such as K.G. Subramanyan and also of foreign luminaries such as Clement Greenberg or Le Corbusier.'

— Apollo Magazine

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