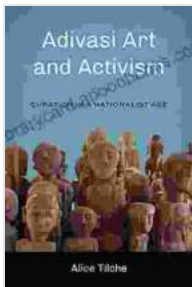


# Unveiling the Power of Curation in the Nationalist Age: Exploring Global South Asia

In the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of the Global South, the concept of curation has emerged as a potent force shaping national identities and cultural narratives. The book "Curation In Nationalist Age: Global South Asia" delves into the multifaceted world of curation, examining its profound impact on the art, politics, and society of the region. Through a comprehensive exploration of case studies from across South Asia, the book unveils the transformative power of curation in shaping cultural heritage, identity formation, and political discourse.



## Adivasi Art and Activism: Curation in a Nationalist Age (Global South Asia) by Lee Baker

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 10331 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 32 pages



## Curation as a Tool of Identity Formation

Curation plays a pivotal role in constructing and defining national identities. By selecting, organizing, and presenting cultural artifacts, curators shape the way in which a nation perceives its own history, culture, and place in the world. In post-colonial South Asia, curation has been a potent tool for

nation-building, helping to forge a sense of unity and belonging among diverse populations.

For example, the National Museum of India in New Delhi houses a vast collection of artifacts that narrate the rich and complex history of the Indian subcontinent. Through careful curation, the museum presents a cohesive narrative that celebrates India's cultural diversity and showcases its contributions to world civilization. Similarly, the Bangladesh National Museum in Dhaka plays a crucial role in preserving and showcasing the cultural heritage of Bangladesh, fostering a sense of national pride and identity among its citizens.

## **Curation and Political Power**

Curation is not merely a neutral act of preserving and presenting cultural artifacts. It is also a political act, often influenced by the ideological agendas of those in power. Governments and political parties have long recognized the potential of curation to shape public opinion and legitimize their rule.

During the British colonial era in India, for instance, the colonial administration used museums and other cultural institutions to promote a narrative of British superiority and justify their rule. Curators selected and displayed artifacts that depicted India as a backward and underdeveloped nation in need of British guidance. This curated narrative served to reinforce the power dynamics of colonial society and legitimize British rule.

In contemporary South Asia, governments continue to use curation as a tool for political messaging. For example, the Modi government in India has curated exhibitions and memorials that glorify the Hindu nationalist

movement and promote a particular vision of Indian history. This selective curation has been criticized for marginalizing other perspectives and fostering a divisive political climate.

## **Curation and the Transformation of Cultural Heritage**

Curation has a profound impact on the way in which cultural heritage is perceived and valued. By bringing certain artifacts to the forefront and relegating others to the shadows, curators shape the cultural canon and influence how future generations understand their past.

In the Global South, curation has played a significant role in challenging traditional hierarchies of cultural value. Curators have worked to valorize marginalized and underrepresented cultures, giving voice to those who have been historically excluded from the cultural mainstream. For example, the Dhaka Art Summit in Bangladesh has showcased the work of contemporary South Asian artists, providing a platform for them to gain international recognition and challenge established notions of art and culture.

## **Curation and the Digital Age**

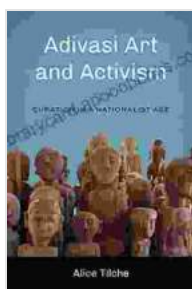
The advent of the digital age has transformed the landscape of curation. Digital technologies have made it possible to access and share cultural artifacts more widely than ever before. This has democratized the process of curation, allowing individuals and communities to create their own online exhibitions and narratives.

In the Global South, digital curation has empowered marginalized groups and individuals to share their own stories and perspectives. For example, the #MeToo movement in India has been amplified by digital platforms,

allowing survivors of sexual assault to share their experiences and challenge the culture of silence that has long prevailed. Similarly, social media platforms have been used to curate and share alternative histories of South Asia, challenging the dominant narratives propagated by traditional institutions.

Curation is a powerful force that shapes national identities, cultural narratives, and political discourse in the Global South. Through a close examination of case studies from across South Asia, "Curation In Nationalist Age: Global South Asia" provides a nuanced understanding of the complex and multifaceted role of curation in the region. By exploring the ways in which curators select, organize, and present cultural artifacts, the book sheds light on the power dynamics at play and the impact of curation on cultural heritage, identity formation, and political discourse.

As the Global South continues to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, curation will undoubtedly remain a central force in shaping the region's cultural and political landscape. By understanding the transformative power of curation, we can harness its potential to foster inclusive and just societies that celebrate diversity, promote cultural understanding, and challenge oppressive narratives.



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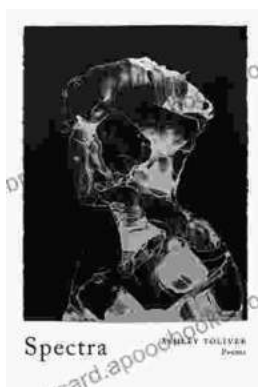
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