

Re-use: The Art and Politics of Integration and Anxiety

Edited by Julia A.B. Hegewald and Subrata K. Mitra

Presented here is a novel approach to understanding the relationship between the past and the present using the unique concept of *re-use*, wherein elements from the past are strategically adapted into the present, and thus become part of a new modernity. The book uses this method as a heuristic tool for analysing and interpreting cultural and political changes and the transnational flow of ideas, concepts and objects. The chapters apply this concept to South Asia but the concept of *re-use* and the method of its application are both general, and amenable to cross-cultural and comparative analysis.

Re-use is a collection of well-researched and lucidly written scholarly articles that apply the concept of re-use to different aspects of cultural, political and material life—from art, architecture and jewellery to religion, statesmen and legislatures. By not treating artistic, political, religious and cultural developments as linear evolutions, this book encourages readers to understand them as a continuous modification of the past and a periodic return to earlier forms.

Beautifully illustrated with exquisite images, and containing a scholarly bibliography pointing in the direction of hitherto unexplored terrain, this new text will be a source of inspiration to the specialist and a source of delight to the general reader.

Julia A.B. Hegewald is Professor and Head, Department of Asian and Islamic Art History, Institute for Oriental and Asian Studies, University of Bonn, Germany.

Subrata K. Mitra is Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany.

Contributors:

Nick Barnard (V&A, London)
Katrín Binder (University of Würzburg)
Thierry DiCostanzo (University of Strasbourg)
Julia A.B. Hegewald (University of Bonn)
Lion König (Heidelberg University)
Tiziana Lorenzetti (La Sapienza, University of Rome)
George Michell (private scholar London and Goa)
Subrata K. Mitra (Heidelberg University)
Prasanna K. Nayak (Utkal University, Bhubaneswar)
Edward A. Rodrigues (University of Mumbai)
Sabine Scholz (University of Manchester)
Jivanta Schöttli (Heidelberg University)
Clemens Spiess (Heidelberg University)

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