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

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.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface

1. Art and Politics: The Dialectics of Duality, Affinity and Confluence
   Julia A. B. Hegewald and Subrata K. Mitra

2. Towards a Theory of Re-use: Desecration, Retro and Fake Versus Improvement, Innovation and Integration
   Julia A. B. Hegewald

3. The Past in the Present: Temple Conversions in Karnataka and Appropriation and Re-use in Orissa
   Julia A. B. Hegewald and Subrata K. Mitra

4. Chola and Neo-Chola Temple Architecture in and around Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu
   George Michell

5. Indian Jewellery and 19th-Century Britain: Evolving Patterns of Re-use
   Nick Barnard

6. Re-use in the Yakshagana Theatre of Coastal Karnataka
   Katrin Binder

7. Indian Painting at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century: Modernism and Re-use of Ancient Pictorial Traditions
   Tiziana Lorenzetti

8. Politics of Art and the Art of Politics: Re-use of ‘Tribal’ Arts and Artefacts in Modern Orissa
   Prasanna K. Nayak

9. Another Form of Re-use?: Institutional Continuity and ‘Indigenisation’ of Westminster Parliamentarism and Western Party Politics in Post-colonial India
   Clemens Spiess

10. Myth, Idea, Dream and Vision: Nehru’s Discovery of India
    Jivanta Schöttli

11. Use and Re-use of ‘Pakistan’ in the Indian Muslim Press (1932-1947)
    Thierry DiCostanzo

    Edward A. Rodrigues

13. ‘The Jain Way of Life:’ Modern Re-use and Re-interpretation of Ancient Jain Concepts
    Sabine Scholz

14. Icons, Nations and Re-use: Marianne, France, and Bharat Mata, India
    Subrata K. Mitra and Lion König

Glossary

List of Plates

Bibliography

Notes on Contributors

Index