



July 2022

Project Title

Travelling South, In Theory

Project Details

Travelling South, In Theory is a project that commissions two art critics/writers based in Southeast Asia to engage with the online archive of *Circa*, Ireland's main art magazine, in print, from 1981-2009. The project aims to address questions of the historicizing of theories of contemporary art and/or pursue South-South relations in terms of the framing of cultural practice (whether the making or writing of art, or both) from a non-hegemonic, or "alternative," vantage. The objective of the commission is to contribute to knowledge or insights about the negotiations and shaping of autonomous cultural practice[s] with or without regard to the metropole, and as a possible condition of demarcating historical-theoretical understandings of 'contemporary art.' Further, it is envisaged that the project could contribute to accounts of the relatively recent art and art criticism of Ireland within postcolonial and decolonial discourses of the 'global south.'

Examples of lines of research with the *Circa* archive might include: the legacy of postmodernism for theories of contemporary art or points of comparative interest between; the migration of art theories and their translation and mistranslation; shifts from postcolonial to decolonial frameworks; spectres of war on cultural practices, and post-war cultural production; the evolution of art scenes towards internationalism and the different or comparable catalysts for such; institutionalization and the changing agendas of artist-led spaces and other initiatives; and factors for the continuing or discontinuing influences of broad contexts such as nationalism and/or religion and cosmopolitanism.

The project is facilitated and editorially supported by Brian Curtin, an Irish-born art writer and lecturer based in Bangkok, who is supported by *Circa's* 'Archive Project Editor' award. *Travelling South, In Theory* can run for up to two years and the timetable will be tailored to

suit the commissioned writers. The results will take the form of two essays with an introduction by Curtin-to be published on the website-but it is hoped that *Circa's* website can be used dynamically throughout the time for, for example, updates on progress or small projects that utilize the archive in imaginative ways. The award is worth 1500EUR each.

Weblinks

circaartmagazine.net

brianacurtin.com