

Siddhartha Mitter: Moving the Center



AICA-USA Distinguished Critic Lecture

Wednesday, Dec 14, 2022, 6:30–8 pm
Vera List Center for Art and Politics
AICA-USA

About

AICA-USA is the United States section of the Association Internationale des Critiques d'Art, which was founded in 1950 in Paris to revive the critical discourse that had suffered under fascism and the Second World War and to develop international cooperation in the fields of artistic creation and cultural development. At present there are sixty-three member nations representing more than 5,000 art critics. Headquartered in New York, AICA-USA is one of the association's largest national sections with over 450 distinguished critics, curators, scholars, and art historians working throughout the United States. www.aicausa.org

The Vera List Center for Art and Politics is a research center and a public forum for art, culture, and politics. It was established at The New School in 1992—a time of rousing debates about freedom of speech, identity politics, and society's investment in the arts. A leader in the field, the center is a nonprofit that serves a critical mission: to foster a vibrant and diverse community of artists, scholars, and policymakers who take creative, intellectual, and political risks to bring about positive change. www.veralistcenter.org.

The 8th Floor is an independent exhibition and event space established in 2010 by Shelley and Donald Rubin to promote artistic and cultural initiatives. Inspired by The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, the gallery is committed to broadening the access and availability of art to New York audiences. Seeking further cultural exchange, The 8th Floor explores the potential of art as an instrument for social change in the 21st century, through an annual program of innovative contemporary art exhibitions and an events program comprised of performances, salon-style discussions, and those organized by external partners. www.the8thfloor.org

Program

AICA-USA is pleased to present *Moving the Center*, the sixteenth annual AICA-USA Distinguished Critic Lecture at The New School, delivered by arts journalist Siddhartha Mitter. It is presented in partnership with the Vera List Center for Art and Politics, this year with the support of The 8th Floor.

Siddhartha Mitter contributes primarily to *The New York Times*, where he writes profiles, features, and criticism on contemporary art. He is most concerned with art-making and culture work as they reflect, negotiate, imagine, and expand civic possibility. He works locally, nationally, and internationally, often in Africa. He was a regular in the *Village Voice* in its swan-song years and has contributed to many other publications within and outside the art field. Previously he was the culture reporter at WNYC New York Public Radio, and a writer on jazz and other music for the *Boston Globe*. Mitter's training was in the social sciences, including graduate work in the political economy of development. His roots are in Boston, Calcutta, and Paris, and he has lived in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, since 2007.

The AICA-USA Distinguished Critic Lecture at The New School is an annual event during which an exemplary writer addresses seminal issues in contemporary art criticism. Previous lecturers have been Legacy Russell, Carolina A. Miranda, Courtney J. Martin, Aruna D'Souza, Paul Chaat Smith, Negar Azimi, Naomi Beckwith, Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, Lucy Lippard, Michelle Kuo, Peter Schjeldahl, Holland Cotter, Roberta Smith, Linda Nochlin, and Michael Brenson.

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

Carin Kuoni, Senior Director/Chief Curator, Vera List Center

LECTURE

Siddhartha Mitter, *Moving the Center*

Q&A

RECEPTION

Credits

The AICA-USA Distinguished Critic Lectures at The New School, an annual event addressing current issues in the world of art criticism, are presented in partnership with the Vera List Center for Art and Politics.

The Fall 2022 programs of the Vera List Center for Art and Politics are generously supported by members of the Vera List Center Board, other individual donors, and the following institutional donors:

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We also gratefully acknowledge the support of The New School, our academic home.

For video documentation of this talk, visit veralistcenter.org where you can also find additional information and documentation of previous AICA-USA Distinguished Critic Lectures.

Image: Siddhartha Mitter, photo by Tom Saater.

Presented by



THE NEW SCHOOL

**VERA LIST CENTER
FOR ART AND POLITICS** *Correction**

Hosted by

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