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Migration of Form

Exhibitions for the Global Present

Edited by Roger M. Buergel

Edited by Sophia Prinz

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- A study on migration of form as curatorial method, based on the practice at Zurich's Johann Jacobs Museum
- Explains how contemporary exhibitions can contribute to a broader understanding of the complex global entanglements that shape our world and life

The term "migration of form" describes a curatorial method that takes aim at the contradictions of the Western museum traditions and the ways exhibitions we have been conceived and designed. The method addresses transcultural entanglements in the past and present from which objects emerge, rather than working with distinctions such as art and non-art or cultural identities and concepts such as "Africa" or "Renaissance." It proposes a new type of museum for global audiences that serves as a platform for discourses on urgent sociopolitical topics and as a space of experimentation with new ideas and forms of display.

This book explains and applies the "migration of form" by offering insights into the curatorial method Roger M. Buergel has experimented with at Zurich's Johann Jacobs Museum and other venues in Europe and Asia. Descriptions of single exhibitions on global trade, raw materials, or artists such as Maya Deren and Allan Sekula are complemented by concise texts which illuminate the theoretical foundations of the curatorial process. Richly illustrated, the volume invites a timely and broadened view of art and cultural history.

Roger M. Buergel was Artistic Director of documenta 12 in Kassel, Germany (2007) and has curated numerous major exhibitions worldwide. He has served as Director of Zurich's Johann Jacobs Museum 2012–21.

Sophia Prinz is a Cultural Theorist and Cultural Sociologist. She was head of research at the Johann Jacobs Museum and until recently visiting professor for Theory of Design at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK). Her research focuses on practices of perception, theory of exhibition and the global entanglement of social and material forms.

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