
Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Christiane Brosius and Prof. Dr. Monica Juneja. Without their support, constructive feedback, and encouragement, I would not have been able to write this book or undertake the research it is based on. The Faculty of Behavioural and Cultural Studies and the Centre for Transcultural Studies at Heidelberg University offered me the necessary space and time to develop, test, and debate my rethinking of contemporary art in a transcultural society. A doctoral scholarship of the Graduate Program for Transcultural Studies (GPTS) at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” (DFG) enabled me to conduct my research, especially my fieldwork in Nepal and Bangladesh. My gratitude also goes to the Heidelberg Studies on Transculturality book series at Heidelberg University Publishing who have kindly agreed to publish my manuscript and patiently guided me through the publication process.

I will forever be indebted to the people I met during this endeavor. The bravery and courage to do what they do, in the face of the socio-cultural and political challenges around them, does not cease to amaze me. Tayaba Begum Lipi, Mahbubur Rahman, Shimul Saha, NayaTara Gurung Kakshapati, Saurganga Darshandhari, Prithvi Shrestha, Sujan Chitrakar, Tanzim Wahab, Tanvir Murad Topu—thank you for teaching me about friendship, for giving me a roof over my head, and for feeding me, both with tasty food and knowledge. A warm thanks to everybody at the Britto Arts Trust, photo.circle, the Sattya Media Arts Collective, Bindu—A Space for Artists, the Siddhartha Arts Foundation, ArTree, and to the many many artists who agreed to talk to me, who invited me to their studios, and who shared their work with me.

The wonderful people I met in the field are part of a larger community of knowledge producers that have encouraged, stimulated, and criticized my research. I could not have done this without my colleagues at the Cluster, notably within the project B20 “Rethinking Art” and the GPTS. Above all, Dr. Cathrine Bublatzky and Dr. Laila Abu-Er-Rub: you have paved the way. Thank you to Dr. Jule Nowoitnick for your structural support and to my fellow anthropologists, Roberta Mandoki, Dr. Annika Meyer, Lucie Bernroider, and Juliane Breiffeld for your crucial feedback.

Thank you to my elected family, for keeping me sane: Shikhar Bhattarai, Benjamin Auberer, Wiebke Beushausen, Max Gawlich, Annabell Degler, Simone Brändlin, Luise Schneider, and Steffi and David Bähr.

Jessica Warnier, thank you for agreeing to read this without ever really knowing what I was talking about.

And lastly, thank you to Brigitte Kuffer, Jean-Marie Harles, Santa Kuffer-Barnetta, and Josephine Harles for your unconditional support and love.