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DER KRITIK

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FROM WHERE I STAND.

MEETS

PACT OF SILENCE — HOW TO BREAK IT?

INSTITUTIONAL CRITIQUE AND
INSTITUTING OTHERWISE FROM A
FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

WITH

ARNIKA AHLDAG + MEENAKSHI THIRUKODE

ORGANIZED BY REBECCA HANNA JOHN, OONA LOCHNER,
ISABEL MEHL, AND NELE WULFF

APR 16, 2021
5 P.M.
PUBLIC ONLINE TALK

APR 28 + 30,
MAY 5 + 7, 2021
4 – 7 P.M.
4-DAY STUDENT
WORKSHOP

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As we are all embedded in various institutions: how can we re/think them and our positions within? Are there ways to subvert them by using their tools in different ways? What are the potentials – and the stakes – of dropping out of institutions, of staying within, or “fucking up” (Valerie Solanas)?

With **From Where I Stand** and **Pact of Silence – How to break it?**, we have brought together two feminist collaborations who are invested in these questions. In an ongoing collective process between Hamburg, Berlin, Bangalore, and Delhi, we are discussing our roles within existing institutions, new ways of relating, and the (im)possibilities of creating feminist institutions.

A first result of this dialogue is the public talk and 4-day workshop held at Leuphana University in April and May 2021. The public online talk will introduce the work of **Pact of Silence – How to break it?**, initiated by art historians and curators **Arnika Ahldag** (Delhi/Bangalore) and **Meenakshi Thirukode** (Instituting Otherwise, Delhi). Their 4-day online workshop at Leuphana University will, with a limited number of students, dive deeper into ways of dealing with institutions and of instituting otherwise.

The collaborative project **Pact of Silence – How to break it?** situates itself within histories of feminist consciousness raising and began in a post #metoo landscape within the Indian Art World in 2018–19. Via formats that are structured intuitively, and in response to various intersecting factors around political temporalities, gender, sexuality, race, and the institution, **Pact of Silence** is an attempt at creating “brave spaces” (Micky Scottbey Jones), where working together is imagined in more equitable spaces within the arts. The methods focus on the process of reading, study and transformative as well as restorative practices that centre the speaking out of our truths while holding space for each other.

From Where I Stand started in 2016 as a collaboration between Laura Kowalewski, Oona Lochner, and Isabel Mehl who met in the context of the Research Training Group “Cultures of Critique” at the Leuphana University of Lüneburg. Their initial workshop series “Feminist Art/Writing: Genealogies, Subjectivities, and Critique” invited art historians, art critics, curators, and artists to discuss feminist ways of writing about art. Growing into a collaboration of writing, thinking, and speaking together, FWIS has been joined by Rebecca Hanna John and Nele Wulff, also members of “Cultures of Critique”, as well as other voices.

April 16th, 5 p.m.:

public online talk (open for all)

with **Arnika Ahldag** and **Meenakshi Thirukode**

April 28th and 30th, May 5th and 7th, 4–7 p.m.:

4-day student workshop (limited number)

by **Arnika Ahldag** and **Meenakshi Thirukode**

The talk and workshop will be held in English.

To receive the zoom link, please register: kdk@leuphana.de (indicate “From Where I Stand” in the subject line)

From Where I Stand meets Pact of Silence – How to break it? Institutional critique & instituting otherwise from a feminist perspective is a 4-day workshop held in the context of the Research Training Group “Cultures of Critique” at the Leuphana University of Lüneburg.



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