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## The Culture of Curating and the Curating of Culture(s)

By Paul O'Neill

MIT Press Ltd. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Culture of Curating and the Curating of Culture(s), Paul O'Neill, Once considered a mere caretaker for collections, the curator is now widely viewed as a globally connected auteur. Over the last twenty-five years, as international group exhibitions and biennials have become the dominant mode of presenting contemporary art to the public, curatorship has begun to be perceived as a constellation of creative activities not unlike artistic praxis. The curator has gone from being a behind-the-scenes organizer and selector to a visible, centrally important cultural producer. In *The Culture of Curating and the Curating of Culture(s)*, Paul O'Neill examines the emergence of independent curatorship and the discourse that helped to establish it. O'Neill describes how, by the 1980s, curated group exhibitions -- large-scale, temporary projects with artworks cast as illustrative fragments -- came to be understood as the creative work of curator-auteurs. The proliferation of new biennials and other large international exhibitions in the 1990s created a cohort of high-profile, globally mobile curators, moving from Venice to Paris to Kassel. In the 1990s, curatorial and artistic practice converged, blurring the distinction between artist and curator. O'Neill argues that this change in...



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It illustrates how curating became a form of self-presentation with the 'curator-as- auteur' in the late 1980s, and how the 'super-visibility' of a new generation of curators took place in the mid-to-late 1990s when curatorial debates and published anthologies began to appear as a way of correcting gaps in historical curatorial knowledge. Chapter Two traces the globalisation of Curating in the context of biennials and large-scale international exhibitions from 1989 to 2006. Chapter Three expands on the concept of the 'curator' and reveals a convergence of artistic and curatorial practice in the 1990s, which provides a theoretical backdrop to the Practical component of this research project.

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