



Azim Premji
University

Colloquium: The ‘Invention’ of Tradition: The Case of Classical Indian Dance

Speaker:

Sadanand Menon, Art Critic, Chennai

Date / Time:

August 22, 2013 - 4:00pm - 5:15pm

Venue:

10th Floor, Auditorium, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

One of the major problems confronting the development of a healthy and critical contemporary dance practice in India is the layers of hypocrisy surrounding its purported history. This talk will explore the special colonial conditions under which the idea of 'tradition' was invented on the sub-continent and our constant proclivity to trip and stumble over the idea; in other words, why Indian dance refuses to modernize. One of the major problems confronting the development of a healthy and critical contemporary dance practice in India is the layers of hypocrisy surrounding its purported history. This talk will explore the special colonial conditions under which the idea of 'tradition' was invented on the sub-continent and our constant proclivity to trip and stumble over the idea; in other words, why Indian dance refuses to modernize.

A Note on the Speaker:

Sadanand Menon is a nationally reputed arts editor, popular teacher of cultural journalism, widely published photographer, arts curator and prolific writer and speaker at seminars on politics, ecology and the arts. He is currently Adjunct Faculty at the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, where he conducts courses on 'Arts & Culture Journalism' and 'Photojournalism'. He is member, Apex Advisory Committee, the National Museum, Delhi; member, Executive Council, Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi and Managing Trustee, SPACES, An Arts Foundation, Chennai. A long-time collaborator with Chandralekha, he is deeply involved with issues connected with the creation of a contemporary Indian dance. In 1998, he curated the Retrospective Exhibition of Fifty Years of Dashrath Patel's work in painting, ceramics, photography and design for NGMA, Delhi and Mumbai.