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Curating Culture

Coming from a background of curating and art writing for contemporary visual art practice, it would seem that art criticism and critical curating are akin to, or find natural affinity with, cultural studies. However the question is if this in fact is really so. The role of curator has transformed since the 90s expressing and manifesting quite explicitly the desire and necessity for reflexive production of meaning (at least largely in the west, though more so recently in asia). Curating has in the words of Irish artist and writer Mick Wilson become a 'parallel critical voice to the artist' as it appears to shift into a neo-critical mode left vacant by the conventional critic. Contemporary curating has also increasingly set out to challenge the boundaries and role of curating. Two questions are discussed: how does one shift between the roles of curator/critic and cultural student, would such movement even be visible? What role radicalism in critical curating and cultural studies?