Editorial Note

Overview of the Current Issue of Sambhashan

This issue on "Technology, Art and Society" focuses on extending the boundaries of aesthetics, science, technology, and philosophy in order to address variety of questions including politics, ethics, justice, inclusive social systems, language and an intellectual aspiration of inter- disciplinarity towards a better world. It intends to illustrate the redundancy of the traditional distinctions of technology, art and society, there by discussing new conceptual forms of interactivity, non-linearity, and materiality/immateriality that interact in complex ways to construct the world we inhabit. Challenging the subject- object centred understanding of art, technology and society; it aimed to explore the agency of the different material objects and mediums of expressions. Beyond the 'visual', 'representation', 'beauty', 'truth' and 'practicality' centred discourses of art and technology, this issue celebrates a shift from 'reproducibility' to 'producibility'. This alters the role and position of the socially and culturally embodied human

subject as it functions both as a source of production as well as a site that resists it's demystification. The cultural imaginings it exemplifies brings up questions of how these constructed realities relay with human actions, intentions, manipulations, strategies, frame and re frame embodied memories and realities (and vice versa). The imitations of that considered 'natural' by the 'artificial' (and vice versa) simultaneously question it's ontology. This, on one hand makes room for the fragile and fragmented subjectivity important for building an inclusive society, yet on the other hand; art/craft/ technology become agents of humanising and redefining the shared life world that we inhabit blurring all boundaries of truth, reality, illusion and exposing systematically constructed imaginations that cause marginalisation, hierarchies and exclusions.

Hence, the format of this issue also differs from our conventional format of deliberations. The issue records twelve contributions in the form of research papers, articles, book reviews, previews of forthcoming works and commentary. This diversity of writing styles is divided into six sections with reflections by the alumni review editor; thus, blending the formal academic style of writing with writings by artists. It conveys a unique sort of knowledge and a way of thinking generally considered distinct from writings of academic and professional observers, yet deeply theoretical and conceptual in nature. Deliberations of theoretical and experiential perspectives is not a matter of filling gaps between critical writing and artistic creations; it is to create intellectual, political, and cultural possibilities that deflates the dichotomy of theory/praxis, academic/non-academic, reason/perception. The issue attempts to bring artists, technologists, practioners and academicians into direct conversations with each other so as to build a public ethic that appreciates the moral foundations of a free and democratic society.

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