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Dayanita Singh: File Room



Synopsis

Dayanita Singh's photos of archives and their custodians across India examine how memory is made and how history is narrated. These images bring to light the paradox of archives: they are impersonal in their classifications, yet each is the careful handiwork of an individual archivist, an unsung keeper of history whose decisions generate the sources of much of our knowledge. Archives are vessels of orthodox fact but can also be the home of neglected details and forgotten documents that can unfix the status quo. As the pace of change in contemporary India accelerates and Indians turn from the past and fix their gaze on the future, what will become of the archive? Singh prompts us to imagine archives as not merely documents of dusty scholarship but as monuments of knowledge, beautiful in their unkempt order.

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Customer Reviews

This is a collection of photos taken by a woman in India who worked for years as an archivist. Not only is this an achievement in excellent photography, but it's a valuable record of how India--and perhaps the rest of the world--kept track of documents in the pre-digitised era. This is a piece of history to be browsed through. The photos were discovered by a German who found a publisher in Germany for this book. The photographer herself is modest but shows a real passion for her subject.

interesting depiction of the bureaucracies behind the storage of information in a colonial reliquary

kind of manner. Documentary style photographs that straightforwardly depict a subject that interests me at least.

Amazing photographs!!! Will be immediately recognizable to any Indian who has visited Government buildings. The introduction was well written and moving.

Book arrived promptly and as described

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