

The Edinburgh Companion to Curatorial Futures

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The *Edinburgh Companion to Curatorial Futures* is the first curatorial studies volume to engage with the increasingly ubiquitous concept of ‘the future’ and its exponential growth in the fields of artistic research, curating, art and academia. We find ourselves at a point in time in which we must rethink the place and activity of the curatorial in order to ask, what can be done? The curatorial can be broadly thought of as a constellation of exhibitionary techniques, apparatuses and events of knowledge that extend the scope of curating past its historical territory of contemporary art. With this expansion, which practices and ideas do we need for this moment and for the future? The volume is a collection of new essays by well-respected curators, artists, writers and theorists, and with a particular emphasis on new voices and those practicing outside of established contexts in Western Europe and the US. Rather than a survey of existing curatorial projects and exhibitions, the anthology focuses on curatorial practices and ideas that take non-standard forms, unfolding through a collection of shorter proposals and longer academic essays. In doing so, the anthology explores, among other things, new forms of activism, ideas and strategies around sonic intervention, Indigenous curating, the role of data and datafication in curating, questions of worlding, “bio-fiction” and, what we term, future practice.

What is it we need to know when we think about future practice(s)? What forms of action and organisation, which theoretical and political tools, what imaginaries and which histories can inform our work as we think towards the future? Crucial to this question of practice, is another concern that relates to the shape and place of the future itself, and this is to rescue the future from the so-called “futures industry” and return it to a place of radical, liberatory and non-normative activity. *The Edinburgh Companion to Curatorial Futures* includes a diverse collection of essays by curators, artists, writers and theorists that explore – in form and content – the possibilities and indeed the necessities for practice in a changing world in which the future exerts continuous demands on our present.