Resisting the Pressures of the Global Art Market

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Abstract

A student essay for the Special Student Issue of the Journal of Extreme Anthropology accompanying the art exhibition ‘Artist’s Waste, Wasted Artists’, which opened in Vienna on the 19th of September 2017 and was curated by the students of social anthropology at the University of Vienna. This essay discusses the pressures of the global art market on artists, as well as the way in which the price of an artwork in the art market came to stand for its quality, rather than the other way round. Using the case of the Viennese artist Christian Ruschitzka, the essay suggest that there is some resistance and genuine critique possible, but only under certain conditions.
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