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Not My Circus, Not My Monkeys

The Motif of the Circus in Contemporary Art

Edited by [Helen Hirsch](#) and [Katrin Sperry](#)

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Works that use the circus to question cultural and political structures.

Originating in London towards the end of the eighteenth century, the circus has long been a subject of fascination. Though today this spectacle can seem like a relic from the past, the entertainment, humor, and exploitation of the circus provide a basis to examine art, cultural history, animal rights, feminism, and racism. The illusions, struggles, successes, and failures staged at the circus can expose cultural dominance and marginalization.

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