



EDITORIAL

Brent Howitt Otto and Robyn Andrews

We are pleased to present this special issue on artistic and literary portrayals of Anglo-Indians. We welcome as the first article in this issue, that of UK based artist of Anglo-Indian heritage, Michelle Olivier, who reflects critically upon her own artistic practice in relation to her identity as an Anglo-Indian in the diaspora. Then we turn to New Zealand based Anglo-Indian fiction writer, Keith Butler, as he contextualises and interprets a painting by the late Anglo-Indian artist Leslie Morgan. Finally, we offer a book review of Daman Singh's latest novel, *Kitty's War*, by acclaimed fiction and travel writers Colleen and Hugh Gantzer who are based in Mussoorie. The strand running through all three pieces is the question of how Anglo-Indian identity is experienced both in India and the diaspora, and how it is portrayed by Anglo-Indians themselves and by others in artistic form.

In Michelle Olivier's article she explores three themes which have surfaced and recurred in her art practice: the representation of mixed-race people, the presence of the colonial past in the neo-colonial present, and how she has come to understand her own family history. She reflects upon her two key methodological practices as an artist: academic reading, and practice-based research that involves developing ideas and making art in the studio. She focuses her discussion on how these activities have complemented and extended pre-existing knowledge of her Anglo-Indian heritage. Her work intends to open a critical dialogue with others about the representation of mixed-race people.

In the second article of this issue, Keith Butler analyses the painting *Misidentification*,

which is part of the series *Anglo-Indians sail into White Australia*, by an Anglo-Indian artist, the late Leslie Morgan, who artistically reimagines Anglo-Indian immigration into Australia. Butler's article draws upon an interview with Morgan prior to his demise. The transcribed interview is included as an appendix.

The Gantzers' review article offers a critical analysis of *Kitty's War*, by novelist Daman Singh. *Kitty's War* takes place during the Second World War in India and, with an Anglo-Indian female protagonist, offers a representation of Anglo-Indian life during the late colonial period.

Robyn Andrews holds a Ph.D. in social anthropology from Massey University in New Zealand, where she is a senior lecturer in anthropology. Her Ph.D. thesis was on the *Anglo-Indian Community (2005)*, about which she continues to research and write extensively in collaboration with other scholars in Anglo-Indian Studies who belong to various disciplines. Contactable via R.Andrews@massey.ac.nz

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