



**25.04.2024, 6.15pm–7.45pm | Public Lecture**  
Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36, room F005

**Prof. Dr. Alexander Alberro**

Virginia Bloedel Wright '51 Professor of Art History, Columbia University

Moderation:

**Prof. Dr. Elize Mazadiego**

Institute of Art History, University of Bern

## **Contemporary Art at the Nexus of Cultures**

My paper engages decolonial theory to explore the dynamic exchanges that materialize today at sites where the aesthetic ideals and values of disparate art frameworks meet. I acknowledge Western art's epistemic dominance and proliferation but supplant its illusion of universality by recognizing a multiplicity of equally valid coexisting art formations with their own artistic narratives and practices. Many of these configurations are geographical, evolving outside the Western context. However, some are cultural and ideological, developing within the dominant formation's domain. I see the Western framework as at once crucial and insufficient for understanding contemporary art and seek to relativize its significance by bringing into focus the complex negotiations that transpire at its boundaries. My thesis is that the sites of encounter between the Western and other art frameworks are where artists produce much of today's most innovative and transformative art.

