Victoria Memorial Hall cordially invites you to a talk on

**Why Statues Matter: the Changing Landscape of Calcutta's Colonial and Postcolonial Statuary**

by

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**Friday, 3 August 2018, 5.30 pm**
Victoria Memorial Hall, Conference Hall
(New Library Building, next to Administrative Building)
1 Queen's Way, Kolkata 700 071

Despite their largeness and privileged locations, urban public statuary are usually rendered the least visible and most ignored objects of public spectatorship, consigned to a liminal status of being neither 'art' nor 'icon, of fully belonging to neither 'high' nor 'popular' visual culture. With a focus on Calcutta's colonial and postcolonial statues, this lecture will interrogate the public lives and functions of these street objects from three broad angles – (i) the logic of form and materiality in this genre of imagery, to see how human likeness is transformed into inanimate object and commemorative symbol (ii) the 'sculpture'/ 'statue' binary, to ask why statues continually fall short of being 'sculpture', and when, and in what contexts, they may move from one nomenclature to the other, and (iii) the slippage from the 'fine art' of British realist sculpture to local image-making practice in the making of the city's proliferating corpus of nationalist and contemporary statuary.

Entry through East Gate (opp St. Paul's Cathedral) only; cars are not allowed inside the campus