CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR THE SPRING 2024 ISSUE OF EXHIBITION

a journal of exhibition theory & practice for museum professionals published by the National Association for Museum Exhibition (NAME), a Professional Network of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM)

ALTERNATIVE REALITIES

PROPOSALS DUE JUNE 1, 2023

In a 1983 convocation address delivered at the University of Toronto, author Margaret Atwood told graduates, “You may not be able to alter reality, but you can alter your attitude towards it, and this, paradoxically, alters reality. Try it and see.” Her words remind us of the power individuals and organizations have to shape and reshape their outlooks, beliefs, and actions and, in the process, to shift the trajectory of society. What role might exhibitions play in shifting attitudes toward reality, thereby opening up the possibility of positive alternatives?

For this issue, we seek articles that reveal how exhibitions can question or critique our assumptions about existing systems and open pathways to new or previously underexplored alternatives. Although digital technologies like virtual reality, augmented reality, and mixed reality undoubtedly have a role to play in helping us imagine different possibilities, they are not the only forum for such explorations. In thinking beyond technology, proposals for this issue might:

- Explore the role of world-building in physical and digital exhibitions.
- Reveal the powerful ways futurist thinking—including Afro- and Indigenous futurisms—reframe past, present, and future.
- Reevaluate the purpose of exhibitions within institutions, communities, and a rapidly changing world.
- Examine climate activism and its hopeful vision of a post-fossil-fuel world.
- Consider the ways exhibition design and interpretation can be used to shift our relation to objects, ideas, and even ourselves.
- Investigate decolonial practices and pedagogies and the avenues they open up for reimagining exhibitions and institutions.

Or, something else entirely…

Proposals can focus on a specific exhibition or provide an overview of exhibitions and practices. The exhibitions and/or elements discussed can be created by or for museums of all disciplines, historical sites, galleries, institutions that collect and display living collections, or others. Proposals might come from designers, exhibit developers, interpretive planners, curators, writers, educators, or others who create and contribute to exhibitions. In all cases, accepted authors will be expected to write articles that illuminate larger issues; are descriptive and critical and analytical; and evaluation, even if informal, must evidence arguments for the strengths and weaknesses of a project.
HOW TO WRITE AND SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

There are two parts to a proposal (which must be submitted as a Word document):

Part 1: Description (400 words max)
The description must:
● Include a proposed title for the article.
● Clearly and succinctly convey what the article’s thesis will be.
● Indicate the approaches, strategies, or knowledge that readers will take away from the article.
● Convey how the article would raise questions or illuminate larger issues that are widely applicable (especially if the proposal focuses on a single project).

Please note that accepted articles will be expected to provide critical, candid discussions about issues and challenges, successes and failures, and to provide some level of evaluation, even if informal.

Part 2: Brief Bio
Please provide a brief bio (no more than one paragraph) for each author that describes their background and qualifications for writing the article (please do not include resumes or CVs).

PLEASE SEND ALL PROPOSALS AS WORD DOCUMENTS VIA EMAIL TO:

Jeanne Normand Goswami, Editor, Exhibition at: jeanne.goswami@gmail.com. Submissions from colleagues and students around the world are welcomed and encouraged.

DEADLINES

Proposals are due June 1, 2023. Our editorial advisory board will vet proposals in a blind review process, and you will be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance by late June 2023. Articles of 2,000 words maximum, along with high-resolution images, will be due in late August 2023.

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