



Gretchen Jennings  
Editor

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Dear Readers,

**T**he title of this issue, "The Unexhibitable," was inspired by friend and colleague Maureen McConnell, an exhibition developer who has been thinking, writing, and speaking for many years about controversy in museums. The time seemed right to do an entire issue that would explore this theme in depth. Maureen and the **Exhibitionist's** newly formed Editorial Advisory Board were invaluable in locating the array of authors you find here, each with challenging experiences and insightful perspectives on what, if anything, is unexhibitable. The responses to the email we sent out on this topic were especially varied and interesting, and we have reproduced in the first article as many as space would allow.

We're also inaugurating in this issue several regular features on topics that have come up again and again in conversations with readers: "Nuts and Bolts," focusing on practical information; "Exhibition Studies," a section that we hope will provide both resources and a forum for museum studies students and faculty, as well as newcomers to the field; and a "Book Review" section. In the past few issues we have published exhibition reviews that provided several different perspectives on a single exhibition. In this issue we continue with that approach, but we have re-named this section "Exhibition Critiques," in the spirit of Kathleen McLean's frequent calls for more informed and frank criticism of our work by our peers. In a lively discussion at the NAME Breakfast at the 2008 AAM meeting in Denver, attendees endorsed the return, in some form, of the very popular "Critiquing Exhibitions" sessions chaired by Kathy for many years at AAM. We hope the critiques published here and in future issues will help support this movement.

Finally, this issue exemplifies a characteristic of much of the print media today: the inclusion of and reliance on more and more material from digital sources- reproducing emails, quoting from blog conversations, and reprinting material from websites. All of this of course raises timely questions about the ways in which we might expand the digital presence of **Exhibitionist** while maintaining it as a resource that we can hold in our hands. The NAME Board, as well as the Editorial Advisory Board, will be talking about these questions at upcoming meetings, and you can bet the discussions will be lively!

As always, I look forward to your comments in any format.

Sincerely,

*Gretchen Jennings*