

# Call for Papers

## **NOTORIOUS: Potentials and limits of curating infamous objects, the fraught history of natural history collecting and display**

**Curator: The Museum Journal is soliciting manuscripts for a themed issue**

Infamous taxidermy contained in dioramas from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century represent social and cultural values that are difficult to reconcile without acknowledging the violent history and how to reckon with notorious collection objects. This special issue of Curator will bring together scholars from diverse disciplines including art history, gender and women's studies, ecology, and bioarcheology, among others, to use Lion Attacking a Dromedary, a taxidermy group that has been on display at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH) in Pittsburgh, USA, almost as long as the institution has been open. It seeks analysis of this representation as a case study to understand the potentials and limits of curating such infamous objects.

This special issue has identified a group of scholars who will undertake a rigorous study to explore how museums can create educational opportunities for the public to discuss the fraught history of natural history collecting and display, particularly in the context of North American and European cultural evolution, while others will argue that the problematic narrative inherent in the object outweighs any possible educational impact. This special issue does not seek to advocate for any particular curatorial strategy when dealing with such inflammatory objects – but instead delves into the troubled histories of dioramas of this type, to understand the multifaceted and interdisciplinary approach that is necessary to responsibly curate such a notorious display.

While the guest editors have identified a series of scholars interested in this critical discussion, the journal invites additional contributions to submit research articles or perspectives to expand understanding of this question.

**Theme Issue Editor:** **Jessica Landau, Ph.D.**, Assistant Instructional Professor, University of Chicago & Research Associate, Carnegie Museum of Natural History

**Submission Guidelines:** Submission of research papers and perspective essays are welcomed. The journal is published in English and contributors are welcome to also translate accepted papers into the language of their choice after acceptance. Learn more about the types of papers and translations:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/21516952/homepage/forauthors.html>

The deadline for submission of full papers is October 1st, 2022. All contributions are subject to peer-review, with anticipated publication in early 2023. Authors seeking to contribute to this issue should email proposals to the guest editor at [editor@curatorjournal.org](mailto:editor@curatorjournal.org) for consideration. Please use the subject line NOTORIOUS, copying the abstract for the proposal into the main body of the email.

*Curator: The Museum Journal publishes quarterly in print and online with a current circulation reaching around the world with access extended low-cost or free access to libraries and museums in developing world institutions.*

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