

# Call for Paper

## Museums as Historic Markers and Makers of National Identity

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

This special issue focuses on the relationships between museums and national identity. Interest in this topic has grown rapidly as national museums capture and convey identity narratives. National museums serve as historical markers and makers of national identity, at times addressing controversial pasts. National museums, as producers of national histories, are intertwined with the construction of identities, both individually and collectively.

Museums and, by de facto, museum professionals are responsible for collecting and displaying objects to craft the origin stories of their nations. How these national narratives unfold within museums influences a specific understanding, a singular lens that bolsters national identity and nationalism. Established and new countries alike seek to connect their current identities to the past, present, and future, endowing historic authority upon modern-day collective stories and solidifying kinship through the ages. The most recent research in the field of museum studies regards museum visitors as audience members, a public to be educated by museums and curators dedicated to that education.

This special issue of Curator invites critical dialogue surrounding the construction of national identities through museums. As most of the existing literature is Eurocentric in perspective, we especially seek authors from the global majority and the southern hemisphere. From the multi-perspectives of museums, curators, and visitors, some questions that submitted papers may address are, but are not limited to:

What are the roles of museums as historical markers and makers of national identity?

- How do curators shape museum narratives to foster or impose a national identity?
- How do museums adjudicate moments of controversy in their national pasts under different political and financial pressures?
- Are national museums government collaborators promoting an ideology that is at cross purposes to the national evolution?
- Can national museums provide a safe forum to explore identity in relation to dominant culture?
- How do national museums reconcile themselves with cultural identities in countries that present historically distinct cultural populations?
- How do visitors read the embedded nationalistic discourses in national museums?

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**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. Learn more about the types of papers and translations: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/21516952/homepage/forauthors.html>

The deadline for abstracts is April 30, 2024.

Authors will be notified of their accepted papers by June 30, 2024 for anticipated draft completion by October 2024.

**Abstracts should be emailed directly to the guest editors at [Identity@curatorjournal.org](mailto:Identity@curatorjournal.org) for consideration.**

*Curator: The Museum Journal publishes quarterly in print and online with a current circulation reaching around the world through its over 9,600 subscribing institutions. Through Wiley's philanthropic initiatives, access is also extended low-cost or free access to an additional 4,586 developing world institutions.*

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