

# The Journal of Dress History

## Submission Guidelines for Exhibition Reviews

### Submission Eligibility

Regarding the reviewer:

- Members and non-members of The Association of Dress Historians (ADH) are invited to discuss their exhibition review ideas. Contact [exhibitions@dresshistorians.org](mailto:exhibitions@dresshistorians.org) to discuss your ideas.
- Both members and non-members can write a review to be published in the journal.

Regarding the exhibition:

- In-person exhibitions are eligible if they are currently on display or have closed within four months of the publication date of the journal. (For example, if an exhibition closes in June, it is still eligible to be reviewed for the Autumn issue of the journal published in September.)
- Online exhibitions are eligible if they have opened within a year of the publication date of the journal. (For example, if a museum launches an online exhibition in May, it is still eligible to be reviewed for the Winter issue of the journal published in December).

### The Purpose of Exhibition Reviews

The purpose of publishing exhibition reviews in The Journal of Dress History is twofold:

- To spotlight exhibitions that are likely to be of particular interest to Journal readers.
- To demonstrate the depth and breadth of both in-person and online exhibitions within the discipline of dress history.

### Exhibition Reviewers' Acknowledgements

By submitting an exhibition review to The Journal of Dress History, reviewers should not have any bias or conflict of interest. For example:

- Do not write an exhibition review if you personally know the curator of the exhibition under review.
- Do not write an exhibition review if the exhibition under review was curated by the same museum or venue for which you (the reviewer) work.
- Do not write an exhibition review if you are mentioned anywhere in the exhibition.
- The review is the author's original work and has not been published elsewhere.
- Once the review has been accepted for publication in The Journal of Dress History, the review cannot be revoked by the reviewer.
- The review contains neither plagiarism nor ethical, libellous, or unlawful statements.
- All reviews are subject to editorial revision before publication.
- Exhibition reviewers acknowledge and accept that some of their published exhibition review text might be posted publicly elsewhere, such as on museums' websites to support their marketing or publicity initiatives.

## **Substance**

Exhibition reviews must contain a critical analysis of the exhibition and cover the following thematic areas:

### Purpose

- To identify rationale and aims of exhibition

### Experience

- Discuss the visitor's experience. This can include, but is not limited to, answering the following:
  - Was the layout effective?
  - Did the exhibition design and/or sets enhance or detract from the objects on display?
  - Were the types of mannequins used effective, or not? (e.g., Mannequins with or without heads, with or without hair, with or without limbs etc.)
  - Was the placement of the text panels effective, or not?
  - Was the lighting unusual?
  - Were there any other sensory experiences within the exhibition besides from sight? (e.g., sounds, tastes, smells, touching materials etc.)
  - Were there any interactive activities?
  - Was there anything missing that should have been present?

### Relevance

- Situate the exhibition in relation to dress history research and current cultural/social situation/debates. Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - Gender (such as feminism, LGBTQ+ etc.)
  - Decolonization
  - Race
  - Environmentalism
  - Accessibility
- At the end of the exhibition review, reviewers may provide guidance on whether the readers of *The Journal of Dress History* should consider attending the exhibition. If the exhibition being reviewed has ended, reviewers are encouraged to contribute thoughts surrounding how the exhibition contributes to scholarship at large.

### Final Notes

- Errors of fact or typographical errors can be pointed out in the review but should not be dwelt upon unless the reviewer feels the errors compromise the validity of the work as a whole.
- Please be kind and balance critical observations with a recognition of the contributions that the exhibition might offer.

- Criticism must be substantiated with reference to appropriate alternative scholarly work.
- Reviews must aim to be professional, courteous, and temperate.
- Due care and attention must be paid to diversity, equality, and the avoidance of generalisations.

### **Review Specifications and Format:**

- Exhibition reviews must be between 700 words (minimum) and 1300 words (maximum), which includes the review, the exhibition title information at the top of the review and the copyright information. The required 150-word (maximum) reviewer's biography is excluded from the review's word count.
- When writing the review, reviewers are required to follow the Chicago Manual of Style.
- Exhibition reviews must be submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx).
- Reviews must begin with the exhibition title, the curators' name(s), the exhibition venue, city/county/state/province/country, exhibition dates (including day/month/year), and the ticket price (the amount should be in the currency of the country where the exhibition takes place. (e.g. \$10 for America/Canada/Australia, £10 for UK, 10€ for Europe etc.))
- The Word document must be saved with the reviewer's first name/last name (e.g., Exhibition Review, Sally Ford.docx)

### **Images**

- Images are not mandatory but are useful to include to showcase themes and displays from the exhibition
- It is the author's responsibility to source the image permissions prior to the submission of the final version of the review.
- Captions are required if an image is used. A basic format can include: [photographer's name (if applicable)], [description of image] from [name of exhibition], [museum name and location], [date the photo was taken]. Other formats are welcome if sourced from an institution.
- Images must be high resolution, preferably 300 PPI or more.

### **Upon Publication of an Exhibition Review**

- The Journal of Dress History is Open Access, so reviewers are freely able to share the journal.
- Each reviewer owns the copyright to their individual review published in The Journal of Dress History.

If you have any questions, please contact the Exhibition Reviews Editor at [exhibitions@dresshistorians.org](mailto:exhibitions@dresshistorians.org).

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