As a fundamental means of communication between and among peoples, culture mediates and enables the complicated relationships that foster the sense of belonging in the world. Whether identified as propaganda, a space for diplomatic interaction, or a means to increase cultural understanding, art and exhibitions have been at the fore of these dynamics. Museums, in particular, serve as key sites for international relations. This issue of the Journal of Curatorial Studies seeks to contribute to understanding the curatorial dimension of cultural diplomacy. The five articles featured within assess the limits and potentials of exhibitions to function as diplomatic envoys – including attending to the complexities of global cultural exchange, the significance of curatorial approaches, and the complicated partnerships between institutions and various private, public and non-profit organizations that support these initiatives. Engaging with diverse case studies that span the latter half of the twentieth century and the globe, the contributors approach how exhibitions can embody the ideologies of various stakeholders that might not be immediately obvious to their audiences.

ARTICLES

Modern Art and German Reconstruction: American Curatorial Interventions in Post-war Berlin
JENNIFER McCOMAS

Inuit Art: Canada’s Soft Power Resource to Fight Communism
NORMAN VORANO

Plural Diplomacies Between Indian Termination and the Cold War: Contemporary American Indian Paintings in the ‘Near East’, 1964–1966
JESSICA L. HORTON

The Art of Soft Power at Expo 67: Creative America and Cultural Diplomacy in the US Pavilion
ASA McKERCHER
Experiment Diplomacy: Art and International Cultural Relations at 49th Parallel
ELIZABETH DIGGON

EXHIBITION REVIEWS

Vacío Museal: Medio Siglo de Museotopías Peruanas (1966-2016)
AMY BOWMAN-McELHONE AND GABRIELA GERMANA

The Present in Drag
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BOOK REVIEWS

Talking Contemporary Curating, Terry Smith
LIZZIE MULLER

Curatorial Dreams: Critics Imagine Exhibitions, Shelley Ruth Butler and Erica Lehrer (Eds)
DEBRA ANTONCIC

Cultures of International Exhibitions 1840-1940: Great Exhibitions on the Margins,
Marta Filipová (Ed.)
ROSIE SPOONER

Cities, Museums and Soft Power, Gail Dexter Lord and Ngaire Blankenberg
VALENTINA SISTI

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