Journal of Curatorial Studies 8(2)

Jim Drobnick

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Journal of Curatorial Studies 8(2): Restaging Exhibitions

The twenty-first century is witnessing a growing number of exhibitions that repeat and/or restage earlier exhibitions. In restaging exhibitions, curators acknowledge earlier curatorial practices in order to adopt a critical approach for examining how these exhibitions reconstruct, rewrite and re-present the past. What is specific to contemporary restaging is the recognition of the role of exhibitions as sites of exchange in the political economy of art, for exhibitions can construct, maintain and also deconstruct the past. Restaging an exhibition is not mere repetition, for every restaging differs at least in time, if not also in place, and thus in its historical moment and the communities it addresses and constructs as well. The articles in this special issue discuss not only the act of repetition in the context of restaging exhibitions, but also focus on the differences that each restaging introduces, often as an act of curatorial questioning of past hierarchies and/or as a re-enactment and performance of a critique of past hierarchies.

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Jane Chin Davidson and Nicola Foster

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