

Call for Papers: *Why Exhibitions? Strategies, audiences, and future directions*

A joint Subject Specialist Networks conference, 21 – 22 February 2018

Deadline for submissions: Monday 31 July 2017

A rolling programme of temporary exhibitions is accepted as a tenet of museum and gallery best practice worldwide. They refresh visitor interest and offer the potential to boost audience profile and income opportunities. They utilise objects in storage, creating opportunities for inter-collection loans and associated professional networking. And crucially they allow new narratives to be developed around material culture of all kinds, offering new interdisciplinary interpretations to enliven collections and inspire audiences.

This seminar invites museum and gallery professionals to pause to consider some key questions around exhibitions today. What are the – possibly competing - priorities when exhibitions are programmed, such as collections research, commercial drivers, and audience engagement? How are these decisions driven, and who should make them? How do the criteria vary between collections of different scales and different regions? Is there a ‘fashion’ in exhibition methodology, and is such a notion irrelevant for smaller collections?

We are inviting proposed papers of twenty minutes each in the form of case studies, questions, issues or challenges. Themes of interest include:

- Exhibition research and catalogues
- Archiving and documenting temporary exhibitions
- Online exhibitions
- Exhibitions as co-productions – the visitor as co-curator
- Traditional and emerging interpretation media
- Funding exhibitions
- Exhibition models – collaborative models and inter-collection partnerships
- Travelling exhibitions and international programmes
- Nationals and locals – what museums of different scales can learn from one another
- Exhibitions on a budget – inspiring examples in a challenging economic climate
- The future of exhibitions - will they survive?

The conference will take place at Tate Britain, the National Portrait Gallery, and the National Gallery in London on Wednesday 21 to Thursday 22 February 2018, and will be jointly chaired by the Directors of the three institutions. Please send presentation proposals of 300 words maximum, together with a short biographical note (co-presented papers are also welcome) of 100 words maximum to fran.laws@tate.org.uk. The final date for submissions is **Monday 31 July 2017**, and we will reply to all potential speakers in October 2017.