



My goal for MEM is to assist the development of theory and practice in museum education by providing a road map to new and current resources. If you like MEM and find it useful, please support my efforts by subscribing at <http://www.mccastle.com> If you are already a subscriber – thank you! Your financial support makes it possible for a freelance worker like me to produce this publication.

I encourage you to share *Museum Education Monitor* with others within your immediate organization. Please do not forward the newsletter beyond this boundary.

December 2014

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A Word from the Editor – Great books for the holidays!

Thanks to all who participated in the MEM's very informal, fun poll to select the "best museum ed book of 2014"! Most votes went to Elee Wood & Kiersten Latham's *The Objects of Experience: Transforming Visitor-Object Encounters in Museums*, followed closely by Linda Norris & Rainey Tisdale's *Creativity in Museum Practice* (actually published in 2013 but mentioned in the MEM in 2014). Leah Melber's book, *Teaching in the Museum*, completes the triumvirate of museum ed non-fiction for 2014! Please go to (9) New Books in this MEM to see the full selection. Kudos go to all the esteemed authors and their publishers. And, MEM readers, still looking for a holiday gift for that fine colleague (or for a little 'me time')? Here's the perfect list! Enjoy. All the best to you and yours for a very happy holiday season.

Chris Castle, Editor

Special thanks to MEM subscribers and researchers worldwide for their contributions to this issue. Please note that all links in this document are active using Adobe Acrobat Reader. Free Reader download at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

(1) Ongoing Research

(2) Online Journals



Journal of Artistic & Creative Education

Vol. 7 #1 2014

This special edition of the Journal of Artistic and Creative Education (JACE) edited by Purnima Ruanglertbutr brings together **authors from across Australia discussing issues central to the ongoing development and importance of education within museums.** What are the distinctive characteristics and significance of museum education? How does learning occur in museums and what does it look like? Who is engaged in museum education and where does it take place? What are some of the benefits of museum education? This edition explores these broad questions through nine articles that individually address the role of museum learning as providing a transformative experience in a rich, 'hands-on' and diverse environment. The authors present a wide array of case studies and examples from their institutions and their research, providing practical and invigorating discussions on the purpose, pedagogy and practice of museum education. To read more go to:

<http://jaceonline.com.au/issues/volume-7-number-1/>

Includes:

- Healey, Christine & Narelle Lemon, "Beginning the Conversation: Australian Art Museum Education Pedagogy and Practice"

(3) Electronic List Discussions

(4) Blog Postings

Joint Statement from Museum Bloggers and Colleagues on Ferguson and Related Events

<http://blog.orselli.net/2014/12/joint-statement-from-museum-bloggers.html>

By Paul Orselli

The recent series of events, from Ferguson to Cleveland and New York, have created a watershed moment. Things must change. New laws and policies will help, but any movement toward greater cultural and racial understanding and communication must be supported by our country's cultural and educational infrastructure. Museums are a part of this educational and cultural network. What should be our role(s)?

[ExhibiTricks - http://blog.orselli.net/](http://blog.orselli.net/)



What Do You See in This Picture from the Rijksmuseum?

<http://uncatalogedmuseum.blogspot.ca/2014/12/what-do-you-see-in-this-picture-from.html>

By Linda Norris

This picture has been all over my social media feed for the last week. It's a group of teenagers engrossed in their phones in front of Rembrandt's Night Watch at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. And the more I read comments from my colleagues, the madder I got. I didn't get mad at those teenagers, I got mad at my colleagues (and others) whose comments included "so sad," "sigh," "how have we let this happen?"

[The Uncataloged Museum - http://uncatalogedmuseum.blogspot.ca/](http://uncatalogedmuseum.blogspot.ca/)

Reflection 24: Knowing Your Comfort Zone

<http://intentionalmuseum.com/2014/12/17/reflection-24/>

By Emily Skidmore

or the last few months, I've been on maternity leave with my second child. My first little girl is three years old and I had forgotten many of the nuances of caring for an infant. Through the process of getting to know my new little one, I began to reflect on a drawing that we often show to our clients in our planning or reflection workshops.

[Intentional Museum - http://intentionalmuseum.com/](http://intentionalmuseum.com/)

(5) Recent Reports

An Evaluation Report of the After School Club for Teenagers with Autism

By Andrea Bridge and Jemma Atkin-Barrett, Snibston Discovery Museum & Melton Carnegie Museum 2010-2011, July 2011

"The club encourages children with ASD and their friends/siblings to interact together and socialise outside of the school environment whilst developing their skills, interests and creativity using museum spaces, collections and resources." [Thanks to Kate Travers for this link.]

http://www.leics.gov.uk/autism_after_school_club_summary_report.pdf

(6) Online Resources

Cultural capital? Inquiry into inequality of access to culture for children and young people in London

A.N.D. London, UK

Our Cultural Capital Survey, conducted in the first half of 2014, suggests that young people from low income backgrounds take part less in every category of arts and culture than their peers and in particular have less engagement with regular clubs. It also hinted at more complex psychological barriers which lead many young people to 'opt-out' of participation and we have tried to unpick this further through contextualising the research alongside other work in the field. More at <http://www.anewdirection.org.uk/research/cultural-capital>

Evaluation Resources

Center for Advancement of Informal Science Education, USA

InformalScience.org recently launched a newly updated evaluation page designed to make evaluation resources more accessible to informal STEM learning professionals. The new page visually highlights resources to help both veterans and those new to the community develop evaluation plans and proposals, iteratively inform projects, and disseminate evaluation findings. <http://informalscience.org/evaluation>

(7) Print Journals

[Editor's Note: An URL listed in this section provides a link to the journal, not to the article itself. Articles in print journals are available by subscription to that journal, by online purchase of the article, or through museum and university libraries. I encourage you to subscribe. I provide an abstract wherever possible to assist MEM readers in your choices. Many journals offer a free sample if you check the website. CC]

EXHIBITIONIST

Vol 33 #2 Fall 2014

Theme – Teaching and Learning Exhibition Design and Development

Includes:

- Clare Brown, "Teaching Exhibition Design Through a Pedagogy of Creative Problem-Solving"

<http://name-aam.org/resources/exhibitionist>

(8) Recent Theses, Dissertations & Major Papers

[To order, try UMI ProQuest Dissertation Express <http://disexpress.umi.com/dxweb> or contact the author directly to request a copy.]

Crystal teeth and skeleton eggs: snapshots of young children's experiences in a natural history museum

By Eleanor (Elee) Sian Kirk. PhD. University of Leicester, UK.

This thesis has two aims of equal importance: firstly to reveal the fine details of the typical experiences of young children visiting a museum; secondly to find a method of accessing these experiences in such a way as to prioritise the children's own perspectives, and to do so with a light touch, in order to minimise the impact on the visits. The research focuses on the experiences of 32 children, aged four and five years old, in their family visits to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Drawing on the field of Childhood Studies, the project contrasts the effectiveness of several research methods for their potential use with young children in this setting, including children's drawings and tours. The final method involved using children's digital photographs of their visit as prompts for photo-elicitation interviews, thus providing both visual and verbal expressions of their experience. The major contribution of this thesis to museum visitor studies is its development and description of a highly effective, minimally-invasive method that richly documents children's experiences during the time of their museum visit using their own words and images. The research adds to a small but growing field of study about young children's museum experiences with the addition of a detailed case study from a British natural history museum. Findings reveal children's navigations of the social and physical setting, their responses to different types of museum object and modes of exhibit display, and the highly varied ways in which they make sense of the things that they encounter in the museum. The thesis thus argues for a move away from a solely learning-focused view of young children in museums to one that sees them as visitors in their own right, who value many different aspects of their museum visits.

<http://hdl.handle.net/2381/29320>

(9) New Books & Media

Recapping 2014 Books

It's been a great year!

- Acuff, Joni Boyd and Laura Evans. 2014. *Multiculturalism in Art Museums Today*. Rowman & Littlefield. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780759124103>
- Bautista, Susanna Smith. 2013. *Museums in the Digital Age; Changing Meanings of Place, Community, and Culture* Walnut Creek: AltaMira Press <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780759124141>
- Bedford, Leslie. 2014. *The Art of Museum Exhibitions: How Story and Imagination Create Aesthetic Experience*. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press <http://www.lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=490>
- Bergeron, Anne and Beth Tuttle. 2013. *Magnetic. The Art and Science of Engagement*. AAM Press <https://aamus.org/ProductCatalog/Product?ID=3927>
- Dewhurst, Marit . 2014. *Social Justice Art: A Framework for Activist Art Pedagogy*. Harvard Education Publishing Group <http://hepg.org/hephome/books/social-justice-art>
- Gershevitch, Conrad . 2014. *Museums in Human Development: The Place of Museums in a Globalised and Transforming World*. Common Ground Publishing <http://onmuseums.cgpublisher.com/product/pub.196/prod.5>

- Kidd, Jenny (ed). 2014. *Challenging History in the Museum: International Perspectives*. Ashgate <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409467243>
- Kidd, Jenny, 2014. *Museums in the New Mediascape*. Ashgate. <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409442998>
- Melber, Leah (ed) 2014. *Teaching the Museum: Careers in Museum Education*. Washington, DC: The AAM Press <https://aamus.org/ProductCatalog/Product?ID=4506>
- MuseumsEtc. 2014 *Interpretation - 10 Must Reads*. Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc <http://museumsetc.com/products/10-must-reads-interpretation>
- Norris, Linda & Rainey Tisdale. 2013. *Creativity in Museum Practice*. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press. <http://www.lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=474>
- Proceedings of ICOM-CECA Annual Conference 2013. 2014 *MUSEUMS (MEMORY + CREATIVITY) = SOCIAL CHANGE*. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. <http://goo.gl/0ttFM6>
- Ridge, Mia (ed). 2014 *Crowdsourcing our Cultural Heritage* Open University, UK. <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781472410221>
- Smith, Jeffery K. 2014. *The museum effect: How museums, libraries, and cultural institutions educate and civilize society*. Rowman & Littlefield. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780759122949>
- Staiff, Russell. 2014. *Re-imagining Heritage Interpretation: Enchanting the Past-Future*. Ashgate <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409455509>
- Trofanenko, Brenda & Avner Segall. 2014. *Beyond Pedagogy: Reconsidering the Public Purpose of Museums*. Sense Publishers <https://www.sensepublishers.com/catalogs/bookseries/other-books/beyond-pedagogy/>
- Ward, Ossian. 2014. *Ways of Looking. How to Experience Contemporary Art*. London: Laurence King Publishing <http://www.amazon.ca/Ways-Looking-How-Experience-Contemporary/dp/1780671938>
- Wells, Butler, Koke, 2013. *Interpretive Planning for Museums: Integrating Visitor Perspectives in Decision-Making*. Left Coast Press <http://www.lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=392>

(10) Calls

Call for Proposals

Museum Education in the 21st Century

Historical Administration Program Association, Eastern Illinois University

Charleston, Illinois, USA

April 10-11, 2015

EIU HAPA welcomes session, workshop, panel, and roundtable proposals on the theme "Museum Education in the 21st Century." Deadline for submissions Dec. 31, 2014

See <http://www.hapaeiu.org/symposium>

(11) Professional Development / La Formation Professionnelle



January 21, 2015

Takin' it to the Streets: Successful Models for Museum Outreach

AAM-Ed Comm, USA

Webinar

<http://aam-us.org/resources/online-programs/museum-outreach>

(12) The Last Word

Creativity is not a talent; it is a way of operating.

John Cleese (1991), quoted in Clare Brown. 2014. "Teaching Exhibition Design Through a Pedagogy of Creative Problem-Solving," Exhibitionist 33 (2)

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Questions, concerns, comments, or contributions? Please contact the owner/editor, Dr. M. Christine Castle chris@mccastle.com

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