Announcement of the 2012 Best Paper Award

Each year *Museum Management and Curatorship (MMC)* recognizes the best paper that addresses curatorial matters and the best paper that focuses on managerial concerns. The Best Paper Awards Jury consists of members of the MMC’s Editorial Board. The Jury’s criteria include the scope of the paper, its relevance and applicability to a variety of institutions, and the readability of the work. It is encouraging that each year the selection process becomes more difficult, reflecting the increasing quality of the papers published by the journal. Robert R. Janes, and the MMC’s Editorial Board are to be commended for their dedication and persistence in sustaining and improving the quality of MMC.

This year we are pleased to give the curatorial award to Martin Trondle, Stephanie Wintzerith, Roland Waspe and Wolfgang Tschacher for their article “A museum for the twenty-first century: the influence of ‘sociality’ on art reception in museum space” (Volume 27, Issue 5, pp.461-486). It is generally believed that museum visitors recall their visit in terms of who they were with rather than what they saw. This work moved beyond presumptions, using technology to track visitor responses, movement and behaviour within the laid-out space of an art exhibit. Given the evidence-based inquiry underpinning the article, the distinction it makes about the singularity and subjectivity of an “aesthetic event” experience has substantial implications.

The management award goes to Fiona R. Cameron for “Climate change, agencies and the museum and science sector” (Volume 27, Issue 4, pp. 317-339). This paper concerns the very important topic of how well museums realize their social responsibility, especially with
regards to addressing the topic of climate change. Cameron, through a review of the Australian project “Hot science, global citizens: the agency of the museum in climate change interventions” highlights the key role of museums as purveyors of knowledge on important contemporary issues and as agents for raising social awareness. Her article is a challenge to all institutions to assess how well they are fulfilling their roles and responsibilities in aiding their publics to understand and debate these and similar concerns.

We would like to thank the award winners, as well as all of the 2012 contributors to MMC for their creativity, hard work, and excellent contributions - all of which continue to advance our knowledge and understanding of museum practice. The Jury would also like to thank Robert R. Janes for his assistance, and our publisher, Routledge, for supporting these awards.

Submitted by the Best Papers Awards Jury:

Gerald T. Conaty, Associate Editor and Chair of the Awards Committee, Glenbow Museum, Canada

Bernice L. Murphy, Member, Awards Committee, Museums Australia, Australia

Peter Davis, Member, Awards Committee, Newcastle University, UK