

↓Call↓for↓papers↓ Notebook for Art, Theory and Related Zones



Call for Papers – Issue 41/2026 of *Sešit pro umění, teorii a příbuzné zóny* (Notebook for Art, Theory and Related Zones)

Theme: *THE LOGIC OF DISPLAY: EXHIBITION DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE AS A TOOL OF INTERPRETATION*

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Languages accepted: Czech, Slovak, English

Abstract submission deadline: 15 June 2025

Full paper deadline: 28 February 2026

In recent years, the discipline of exhibition histories has significantly redirected the attention of art history toward exhibition as a medium – not only as a crucial means by which art is communicated and experienced, but also as an active producer of meaning. A pioneering work in this field is Mary Anne Staniszewski's *The Power of Display: A History of Exhibition Installations at the Museum of Modern Art* (1998), which was among the first to address the formal qualities of exhibitions. The title of this thematic issue of *Notebook for Art, Theory and Related Zones* echoes that publication and poses several questions: How is this now (hopefully) more conscious power of display manifested today? What theoretical and methodological approaches are being applied to its analysis? And what are the existing “logics-methods” of display and meaning-making in exhibitions?

The formal structure of exhibitions – how they are spatially configured and how this affects the perception and interpretation of the artworks on display – is still an under-explored topic, despite growing public and academic interest in the exhibition as a medium. Issue 41 of *Notebook* will focus on exhibition structure and its critical reflection. Although our main focus is on current debates surrounding contemporary art, where modes of presentation, installation and framing are essential to the final outcome, we welcome contributions that engage a broader historical scope (starting from the second half of the 20th century), in order to better contextualize today's practices. We invite scholarly papers and artistic research contributions relating to the exhibiting of art, architecture, design, photography, and related fields.

We particularly welcome contributions on the following topics:

- exhibition design and architecture as conceived by artists, which occupies a specific position at the intersection of the functional arrangement of a gallery and artistic intervention in its own right (exhibition design and architecture as artwork – the artwork as spatial arrangement of the exhibition space)
- the relationship between exhibit and exhibition infrastructure
- the interpretation of artworks through spatial design and/or exhibition architecture and the relationships such installations reveal or generate (exhibition as a relational place)
- the conditions under which artworks are experienced, and activation techniques within exhibition design and architecture that engage the audience
- exhibition scenography: approaching the exhibition space as a scene of its kind (scenography and scenographics; theatricality; choreography; staging techniques etc. socialist exhibition design and architecture in Czechoslovakia and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe)

The editorial board is happy to respond to inquiries regarding the relevance or suitability of the proposed topics or approaches. Final submissions must meet all the guidelines available at: <https://vvp.avu.cz/en/about-notebook/for-authors/>. Please send abstracts to: sesit.redakce@gmail.com. Applicants will be notified of the editorial decision by 31 July 2025.

Sešit pro umění, teorii a příbuzné zóny (Notebook for Art, Theory and Related Zones) is a peer-reviewed academic journal focusing on contemporary and recent visual art within broader cultural and theoretical contexts. It aims to enrich discourse on art through high-quality texts in the humanities and social sciences that address contemporary and recent art histories as well as the current condition of art and live culture, both locally and internationally. The journal does not adhere to a fixed methodological framework: instead, submissions are evaluated based on quality, critical insight, and relevance to reflections on contemporary visual art.

The journal is published biannually by the Research Centre of the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (AVU). It is indexed in ERIH PLUS (since 2015) and SCOPUS (since 2023).