

WOMAN'S ART JOURNAL

Guidelines for Book Reviews

Review header

Please format your header as in the following examples, allowing the text to wrap to the next line if necessary.

Example 1

Transnational Feminisms, Transversal Politics and Art: Entanglements and Intersections

By Marsha Meskimmon

Routledge, 2020

Reviewed by Julia Skelly

Example 2

Angela Davis: Seize the Time

Edited by Gerry Beegan and Donna Gustafson, with contributions by Angela Y. Davis, Nicole R. Fleetwood, René de Guzman, and Lisbet Tellefsen

Hirmer and Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, 2020

Reviewed by Rebecca VanDiver

Note on exhibition catalogues: Since the review treats the catalogue rather than the exhibition per se, the header should not include exhibition venues (except when a museum is the publisher or co-publisher, as in the example above).

Review body

- **Length.** Reviews should be approximately...
 - 1,200-1,800 words for a single book
 - 1,500-2,200 words for a collected volume, including catalogues with multiple essays by different authors
 - 1,800-2,600 words for two books reviewed together

- 2,200-3,200 words for three books reviewed together
- First sentence. *WAJ*'s style preference is for the first line not to contain the title of the book under review, since the title will appear just above in the header, and the introductory sentence may well contain some of the same key words.
- Contents of review. Veteran reviewers will likely know these guidelines well, but please do skim them for anything new or different; thank you!
 - Contributors. For an edited volume or collection, please mention and discuss *all contributors*, even if briefly.
 - Structural elements. Likewise, please consider all major structural components of the book, at least in brief, including the introduction, all chapters, the chronology (if one appears), the catalogue (ditto), and the bibliography.
 - Images. Please note the general or approximate number of figures and/or plates and assess the quality of the reproductions.
 - Basic information on subject. Include basic introductory information about the subject addressed in the book under review. For a monograph or catalogue on a single artist, for example, include a brief biography fairly early in your review using information drawn from the book. (In the unlikely event you feel it necessary to supplement this information, please cite the additional source(s) in an endnote.)
 - Theoretical framework. Outline the theoretical premise(s) and approach(es) employed in the volume, including the book's relationship to feminist discourses.
 - Major theses. Summarize the book's overall thesis and the major point(s) of each chapter. Please keep in mind that *WAJ* readers may read your review before they read the book, relying on your summary to help them engage with the book more efficiently and effectively.
 - If the book covers both women and men artists, please cover the women to a greater extent.
 - Criticisms. If you find that the book manifests one or more significant problems in fulfilling its stated goals, please do raise these issues, stating your criticism in constructive, respectful prose.
 - Even—or especially—if you have a relationship to the author(s) and/or editor(s), please make sure to evaluate the book's strengths and weaknesses objectively.

- Style & formatting. The *WAJ* follows *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th ed., with any outstanding questions resolved by the style guide of the Association of Art Editors, <https://www.artedit.org/style-guide.php>.
- Citations to book under review. Use page numbers in parentheses after a “quotation from the book under review” (23) and after any other material from the book that you feel warrants a page citation (12).
- Endnotes. For references to works other than the book under review, please use endnotes (on the formatting of which please see below).
- (Fig. 1). Please format references to your accompanying image as “(Fig. 1).”

Endnotes. Please follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th ed., chapter 14, for the formatting of endnotes, consulting the Association of Art Editors style guide if any uncertainties remain.

Figure(s) & caption

Most reviews will be illustrated with a single image, but for reviews of edited volumes or multiple books, the journal may be able to include two or three images, depending on space.

- *WAJ* prefers to publish works by women artists.
- JPEG. Please provide a high-quality JPEG of the work from an online source. If you find you need assistance obtaining the image, please let us know.
- Black-and-white. You’re welcome to submit either a black-and-white or a color image, but please keep in mind that it will be reproduced in black-and-white.
- No permission needed. Because our publishing of book review illustrations qualifies as “fair use,” you do *not* need to obtain copyright permission for your image.
- Caption. Please provide a caption for the image formatted as follows.

Fig. 1. Sofonisba Anguissola, *The Chess Game* (1555), oil on canvas, 28 3/8” x 38 1/8”. Muzeum Narodowe, Pozna.

Fig 2. Shirin Neshat, *Rahim* (2015), from the series *Our House Is on Fire*, ink on digital chromogenic print, 60” x 48”. Photo: Larry Barns. © Shirin Neshat. Courtesy Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels.

Contributor biography

Please furnish a short bio of roughly one to three sentences to appear at the end of your review.

Other information

Copies for you. Upon publication of the issue containing your review, you'll receive a PDF of your review via email and two print copies of the issue via snail mail.

Unpaid. While we sincerely recognize and appreciate that your time and expertise are valuable, our journal currently does not make enough money to allow us to pay our reviewers (or article contributors), except with the free copies of the issue in which the review (or article) will appear. We regret this limitation and understand if it prevents you from writing for us, although we hope you'll weigh your support of our feminist art-historical mission into your decision.

Questions? Please always feel free to contact book reviews editor Alison Poe at apoe@womansartjournal.org with any questions or for any other reason.

Thank you very much for your contribution to the *Woman's Art Journal*!