Preface

Emerging forms of heritage, cultural production and museum work are at the core of this double issue of Nordic Museology. One section is devoted to digital heritage, developed by the guest editors Geoffrey Gowlland and Gro Ween, and in addition we present articles, projects and reviews on other themes.

We live in a world where innovation is heralded as a solution to our burning problems. Innovation shall secure the welfare of future generations, solve the climate crisis, and many more of our immediate predicaments. Innovation is the buzz-word of business and technology organizations. Universities are supposed to innovate, the social sector likewise. More rarely is the word used in connection with museums and the cultural and heritage sector. Maybe this is how it ought to be, a way of keeping these sectors outside the realm of big expectations and capital.

The Oxford English Dictionary online gives us a long list of synonyms for the verb to innovate: originate, create, design, devise, contrive, formulate, and develop. Paradoxically these are words, we could argue, that give a sense of what is going on in the museum and heritage sector today. What is going on are so many ways of trying to take part in shaping new futures, through cooperating with marginalized communities, establishing new arenas for collaboration and promoting democracy in different forms. This is also what the articles in this issue brings to the fore: Emerging forms of collaboration, dissemination, activism, and documentation.

Charlotte Præstegaard Schwartz and Anne Scott Sørensen discuss *The Partisan Café* and the Museum of Burning Questions at the Bergen Assembly in 2016. How and to what degree were radical forms of democracy made possible through these art projects that inserted themselves into the Bergen art scene? They engage the concepts of activism and para-institution to account for an artistic practice that works in the moment and invents new forms of being present. Notions of care and experimentation with living together, on the side of existing art and culture institutions, are at the heart of such an engagement. The concepts they develop are both analytical tools and benchmarks for discussions of how art can contribute to making a difference.

In their article on engagement with health in science centres, Catharina Thiel Sandholdt and Marianne Achiam map the transition of a Danish science centre from a “pedagogy of discovery” which has defined many science centre exhibitions, to a “dialogic pedagogy”. They follow the making of an exhibition on health, and show how both the conception of health and the strategy for engaging with health changed through the process. In this process, the establishment of a participatory strategy, involving families in the production of the exhibition,

turned out to renew the approaches of the science centre. Their article also point to the value of combining a research and a participatory approach to exhibition making.

The main bulk of this issue, however, is no less concerned with what is emerging. Under the title, “Nuts and bolts of digital heritage”, articles and projects interrogate possibilities and dilemmas, successes and problems. The different projects engage with a range of implications of the use of digital tools and technologies, for users, source communities, researchers and institutions. Power, care and collaboration are spelled out and related to how metadata, technological platforms, soft- and hardware are developed, by and with whom. They contribute to making digital heritage worldly, in the very concrete sense of that word: bringing different worlds together, and bringing the digital down to earth, to our shared world.

Emerging new technologies and funding structures also change the life of journals. This is the last issue of *Nordic Museology* to appear on paper. We hope you have enjoyed our 25 years in analogue format and wish you welcome to visit our Open Access journal, where we will continue issuing articles relevant for the heritage and museum sector and academia in the years to come, in the Nordic languages as well as in English. All previous issues from 1993 are also available, and we hope you will download and engage with them.

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