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COVER PHOTO

Lowry Fig. 1. Detail of a steel contour mount.

# INTRODUCTION

## Mountmaking Special Issue

This Special Issue of the *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* is dedicated to the art of exhibition mountmaking, a profession that is inextricably intertwined with conservation. The two fields work toward the same end of safeguarding our museum collections while on exhibit.

Viewed through the lens of preventative conservation, object mounts can be seen as yet another means of safeguarding collections. However, for object mounts to meet this potential, mountmakers must have the opportunity for professional review and debate of mount designs, which this journal provides. We are indebted to the *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* for this opportunity.

The articles in this Special Issue touch on all aspects of the mountmaker's craft. Five of the articles present different solutions for mounting objects in metal, ranging from bronze clips to receiver systems to seismic solutions to large sculptures. Creative uses of rare earth magnets in mountmaking are discussed, and three solutions for softer objects that require

full support, including mannequins, are presented. A discussion of methods of concealing mounts while maintaining their integrity brings up a challenge familiar to all mountmakers. Our hope is that you read these articles for problem-solving inspiration as much as for learning about new techniques and materials.

Most of the articles in this issue were born from presentations given at the first two International Mountmaking Forums: the first at the J. Paul Getty Museum in 2008 and the second at the Smithsonian Institution in 2010. Besides mountmakers, many conservators and allied professionals attended and participated in these events. The tradition has continued with our most recent Forum in Chicago, Illinois, hosted by the Field Museum, and several museums have offered to host the 2014 event. We hope that this publication is only the beginning of this fruitful exchange between our two professions!

—Shelly Uhler, BJ Farrar, and McKenzie Lowry