

Editorial

A good thematic issue of the journal needs to be sufficiently focused to allow for stimulating discussion and debate, yet sufficiently open-ended to facilitate wider questions. In our case, it's also important not to be overly restrictive against current work that might otherwise not fit too narrow a theme. Prof. Randall Bird and I discussed this matter at some length, and we eventually hit on the subject of 'The processes of mediation'. The call for articles was to explain how

the artist – a potter, a painter, a poet – always starts with something and ends up with something else. The passage involves a process of mediation, where things are linked to other things. Thanks to the process of mediation, human creations are not what they seem. Indeed it may be argued that all forms of human practice are mediated – because knowledge and action are socially and culturally contingent. Mediation is not only social/cognitive (ie., always in the background) but, at times, it becomes a conscious political tool through which negotiation and intervention result in some sort of resolution.

The selected theme attracted significant interest. In the articles published in this issue a clear set of themes emerged:

Theory: body, space and image
Media and representation
Creative processes, and
Society, tradition and transformation

As guest editors Prof. Randall Bird and I would like to thank all those who have submitted articles to this edition of the *SAJAH*, and we look forward to next years' special editions.

Jonathan Noble