

# Displaying Spaces

Spatial Design, Experience,  
and Authenticity in Museums

Märit Simonsson

Märit Simonsson

Displaying Spaces: Spatial Design, Experience, and Authenticity in Museums

Umeå universitet 2014

In a museum space, all components of an exhibition are interrelated. Together they constitute a three-dimensional setting where every factor contributes to the ensemble and the meaning of the display. Moreover, aspects of spatial design such as light, colours, materials, and layout create an atmosphere that plays a significant role in a museum experience. Museum spaces are thus not just neutral containers of "information". However, they are often evaluated on the basis of only their contents, instead of their totality of designs and what this arrangement of designs and concepts really communicate to visitors.

*Displaying Spaces: Spatial Design, Experience, and Authenticity in Museums* analyses how spatial design in museums affects experiences and meaning making. It focuses on five museums located in Rome and how their spaces and exhibition designs, of various ages and styles, influence the museum visit. The analyses of the five museums are the point of departure for the discussions on displaying spaces and their effects on experiences and meaning making in museums.

**Märit Simonsson** is a museologist at the Department of Culture and Media Studies at Umeå University.



Department of Culture and Media Studies  
Umeå University, SE-901 87 Umeå, Sweden  
[www.kultmed.umu.se/english](http://www.kultmed.umu.se/english)

ISBN 978-91-7601-141-6  
ISSN 1103-0100  
Serie: Papers in Museology 10



Department of Culture and Media Studies  
Umeå 2014