



Exhibiting Ourselves

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ISBN	9780957387546
Publisher	Artmonsky Arts
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding US & Canada
Size	210 mm x 170 mm
Pages	155 Pages
Illustrations	27 color, 107 b&w
Price	£12.00

- An account of the decline of the exhibition as a means of persuasion, from post WWI to post WWII
- Covers modest as well as grand exhibitions
- Recognises forgotten exhibition designers

Britain has been 'exhibiting' itself in fairs and such like since Medieval times. The zenith of the 'exhibition' was in the Victorian and Edwardian Years when grandiose pavilions were sited over hundreds of acres of ground. *Exhibiting Ourselves* covers the period from post WWI to just after WWII and includes not only celebratory shows, such as the British Empire Exhibition and the Festival of Britain, but more humble, earthier ones such as the British Industries Fairs and the Daily Mail Home's Exhibitions. It also covers exhibitions with other purposes than merely trade, such as the propaganda exhibitions of the Ministry of Information during WWII, and 'design' exhibitions, setting out to improve 'good taste' of both manufacturers and consumers. It celebrates now forgotten exhibition designers, the showmen of their day, and charts the decline of the exhibition phenomenon as a media for change. Contents: Exhibition venues; Celebratory exhibitions; Trade exhibitions; Propaganda exhibitions; Design exhibitions; Exhibiting ourselves abroad; Exhibition murals; Exhibition design era.

Ruth Artmonsky trained as a psychologist. On her retirement from her associate directorship of a leading psychometric consultancy she ran a small art gallery. She has written and published a number of books on British mid-20th century art.