

"This is a book for which many have waited. Time and again, students in museum studies and in material religion ask for resources about the topic of religion in museums. Now, collected in the rich pages of this anthology, readers can find expert voices and interested parties from multiple disciplines and vocations sharing ideas and experience on this key subject. Why has it taken so long?"

From the foreword by Sally M. Promey, Professor of Religion and Visual Culture at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Professor of American Studies and Religious Studies at Yale University, USA

"This project engages the fascinating – and culturally important – conjunction of the subjects of museums and religion. The book has the potential to address and shape the future of this interdisciplinary discourse through an intriguing conjunction of cultural, scholarly, and curatorial perspectives."

Marcia Brennan, Professor of Art History and Religion, Rice University, USA

Bringing together scholars and practitioners from North America, Europe, Russia, and Australia, this pioneering volume provides a global survey of how museums address religion and charts a course for future research and interpretation. Contributors from a variety of disciplines and institutions explore the work of museums from many perspectives, including cultural studies, religious studies, and visual and material culture. Most museums throughout the world – whether art, archaeology, anthropology or history museums – include religious objects, and an increasing number are beginning to address religion as a major category of human identity. With rising museum attendance and the increasingly complex role of religion in social and geopolitical realities, this work of stewardship and interpretation is urgent and important.

*Religion in Museums* is divided into six sections: museum buildings, reception, objects, collecting and research, interpretation of objects and exhibitions, and the representation of religion in different types of museums. Topics covered include repatriation, conservation, architectural design, exhibition, heritage, missionary collections, curation, collections and display, and the visitor's experience. Case studies provide comprehensive coverage and range from museums devoted specifically to the diversity of religious traditions, such as the State Museum of the History of Religion in St Petersburg, to exhibitions centered on religion at secular museums, such as *Hajj: Journey to the Heart of Islam*, at the British Museum.

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