

BOOM

A JOURNAL OF CALIFORNIA

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR BOOM

Boom is an interdisciplinary journal that explores the history, politics, culture, and arts of California, as well as their connections to the wider world. Our audience includes scholars and the public. We publish four times a year. We invite written, photographic, and multimedia submissions. The journal is divided into separate departments, most of which are 800 to 1,600 words long—except for Inquiries, which runs closer to 6,000-7,000. The number of departments in each issue varies, although we always include Inquiries. *Boom* strives to present diverse pieces through a singular voice. Contributors should anticipate editorial input and revision requests. We're happy to consider other ideas as well. All submissions materials should be sent to: boom@ucpress.edu

INQUIRIES

These are featured, peer-reviewed pieces (6,000 to 7,000 words, excluding notes), written for a broad audience. They form the backbone of our journal, and we publish between two and three per issue. We will consider any article from any discipline, so long as it features California as a central subject and engages with pressing social and cultural issues facing the state today. California is a gigantic state with multiple regions and vastly different communities, cultures, politics, economies, demographics, and histories. We will feature articles that explore these diverse regions and communities in depth, develop historical awareness of the state's cultural complexity, and make arguments concerning California and its broader relationship with the world. We are equally interested in articles that explore "greater California," the parts of the globe that have particularly strong influence on California or are influenced by it. Authors are invited to submit illustrations with their articles. We seek strong writing, intellectual rigor, and good storytelling. Articles that are under consideration by another journal or that have been published elsewhere will not be considered for publication in *Boom*.

ANALYSES

This two-page section features a document, photograph, or quirky primary source which does not fit into the larger argument of a scholarly essay but merits consideration on its own, with graphic explanation and/or brief exposition. Preference will be given to submissions that illuminate complex contemporary social and political issues. This section is inspired by the *Annotations* feature in *Harper's* and by the *Archive* department in *Gastronomica*.

THE STATE WE'RE IN

This section is a column authored by a selected California writer and features an essay (1,000-1,500 words) that considers some aspect of the state's condition. Authors are selected by the editors on an annual basis and are expected to contribute to four issues of *Boom*. If you would like to nominate yourself or another writer for this feature, please contact the editors.

CALIFORNIANS

This section highlights the perspectives of people who are at the heart of issues concerning the state, broadly imagined, and who are navigating social, political and/or economic change. We are interested in first-person, on-the-ground perspectives on issues often reported by experts. These can be solo-authored or collaborative pieces. Submissions should take the form of a dialogue, interview, or first-person story. Submissions may come either from insightful storytellers within California communities—environmental activists, educators, farmers, workers, laborers, ministers/pastors, students, business owners, etc.—or from academics who work closely with these communities. We aim for a tone similar to that in Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*. This section will normally appear with a photo of the featured storyteller. We encourage submissions of 800 to 1,600 words.

PRODUCING CULTURE

This department features a diverse-cross section of California's cultural producers: musicians, artists, novelists, filmmakers, designers, chefs, poets, etc. We want to showcase new and lesser-known voices as well as renowned ones. Pieces may take the forms of interviews or dialogues, and we encourage you to situate these interviews in landscapes that are related to the subject's creative process. These could include driving through a particular neighborhood, walking through a building, or touring a landscape. Interviews may vary in length, but our target range is 800 to 1,600 words (plus photographs). We hope to post music, videos, or aural components of these interviews online. Please send queries to the editors before sending materials.

BEYOND BORDERS

California's cultural and political practices and influences extend well beyond the border. We seek contributions that explore how California's economy, politics, and culture have shaped life, land, and community beyond the boundaries of the state and how sites beyond the state affect life within its borders. Possible materials include texts, documents, photographs, objects, and testimonies. We encourage submissions to be limited to 1000 words and be based on specific instances, practices, or materials.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Reviews of performances and exhibits are a vital part of monitoring and exploring the cultural production of California. Reviews should place the event in the broader cultural context for readers who have no specialized knowledge of the work or performance being reviewed. Reviews should be 500 to 1,000 words in length. Please contact the editors before submitting a review to ensure we have not already assigned a reviewer to the event.

LINE BY LINE

This section features reviews of scholarly non-fiction, contemporary non-fiction, and occasionally fiction (when a novel, such as *The Last Days of the Late Great State of California*, captures the cultural moment). We encourage review essays that feature unusual pairings, e.g. non-fiction with fiction. Please send queries to boom@ucpress.edu and books for review to *Boom: A Journal of California*, 226 Voorhies Hall, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616.

CONTESTED GROUND

This section features explorations of the built environment, architectural works, and other types of contested ground. These can be examinations of how contests over places reflect wider patterns of California politics and culture or iconic images (landscapes, prisons, highway signs, coastal views, tomato harvesters) accompanied by commentary from diverse Californians. The goal of this section is to examine how people can approach common California sites from multiple, even contradictory, perspectives and understandings. Submissions should be between 800 and 2,000 words in length.

CROSSROADS

We live in an age of erosion, privatization, and simple erasure of public space, education, libraries, and other institutions and resources. How do we account for what is lost? What does it mean to see public space vanish? What does it look like to see public goods from university majors to public libraries diminish? What happens to public opportunities and well-being in the aftermath? Taking its name from the mythical crossroads where one has to make a decision (and perhaps sell one's soul), this department hosts short commentaries about the changing public face of California, by as wide an array of observers of such processes as we can find. Potential authors include university students, staff, and faculty, library patrons and staff, park advocates and maintenance workers, city operations staff, and others. 800 words. Please contact the editors with proposals before submitting completed work.

