

## **Danger as an Ethics Strategy in Artists' Interventions**

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This paper will examine the ways in which artists' interventions advance new understandings of and approaches to museum ethics through dangerous threats or actions. It will define and map emerging theories of museum ethics and show how institutional critique and socially engaged artistic practice have contributed to ethics discourse through the lens of danger. I will focus on both physical dangers to collections and the ethical dangers that emerge from threats and actions to museum objects. How can we be seduced to become complicit in the violence of looting cultural property in current day Iraq? How can a threat to destroy collections be thought of as an appropriate ethics strategy? And how can the actual destruction of objects generate the urgency for organisational change? Using the case studies of Michael Rakowitz' *Spoils* (2011), Ansuman Biswas' *Manchester Hermit Project* (2009) and Ai Weiwei's *Dropping a Han Dynasty Urn* (1995) I will argue that danger can be a productive means of provocation towards a museum ethics of the future responsive to the concerns of human rights, globalisation, participatory practice and environmental sustainability.