

# ABSTRACT

## Mannequin Focus “Now you see me, now you don’t” Institutional Solutions

### Part 1 “Mannequins at NMAI: An Ongoing Conversation”

#### Presenters:

Emil Her Many Horses and Shelly Uhler, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, DC, USA

## BIO



Emil Her Many Horses is curator in the office of Museum Scholarship at the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution. Emil Her Many Horses specializes in the central Plains cultures. Mr. Her Many Horses is a member of the Oglala Lakota nation of South Dakota and served as curator for the inaugural permanent exhibition, “Our Universes: Traditional Knowledge Shapes Our World”.

Mr. Her Many Horses served as co-curator for the exhibition titled, *Identity by Design: Tradition, Change and Celebration in Native Women’s Dresses* and served as curator for the *Our Peoples* community exhibitions featuring the history of the Chiricahua Apache of New Mexico and the Blackfeet from Montana.

Mr. Her Many Horses’ also curated the exhibition titled, *A Song for the Horse Nation* which opened at the NMAI’s George Gustav Heye Center in New York City in November of 2009 and NMAI’s mall museum on October 29, 2011.

Emil’s recent exhibitions are titled, *Unbound: Narrative Art of the Plains* opened in 2016 at NMAI New York. *Creating Tradition Innovation and Change in American Indian Art*, Co-Curated with Anthony Chavarria, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Disney’s Epcot Center in Orlando, FL., June 2018.



Shelly Uhlir is the staff mountmaker in the conservation department at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian where she specializes in mount fabrication and mannequin construction. Since 2001, she has fabricated exhibition mounts and mannequins for all of NMAI's major exhibitions.

She also enjoys training the next generation of mountmakers through workshops, presentations and internships. She led the organization of the 2010 International Mountmakers Forum hosted by the Smithsonian in Washington, DC as well as the subsequent JAIC Special Mountmaking Issue published in 2012. She remains an active member of the International Mountmaking Forum's Directional Committee.

Prior to her work at NMAI, Shelly worked at Benchmark as mountmaker and crew leader from 1988-2000, mounting hundreds of exhibitions around the world. She has also worked as an independent contract mountmaker. Her museum career started in 1986 working in the exhibition graphics department for the National Museum of African Art for their inaugural exhibitions.