2013

Barnett directs the University Museum at SIUE

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Recommended Citation
Romero, Aldemaro Jr., "Barnett directs the University Museum at SIUE" (2013). CUNY Academic Works.  
https://academicworks.cuny.edu/bb_pubs/765

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Museums have a very long history and have always been sites of public assembly, learning, and social bonding. But the way museums engage with the public has changed over time. The current trend, as Barnett points out, is “to make museums as exciting as the treasures that they house.”

This democratization of museums is “worth a thousand words,” he said. “I like to use the old phrase that a picture is worth a thousand words.” Museums, he noted, are adapting to new technologies, making them more accessible to the public. Barnett said that people are “invited to visit” their collections from the comfort of their own homes. But he said that there are limits to virtual museum visits. “There is a tension that exists in this,” he said. Barnett indicated that there is a balance between exhibiting objects and making them available digitally. “Museums must find a balance between exhibition and engagement,” he said.

Barnett directs the University Museum at SIUE in Edwardsville. The museum has 490 of its works this year and they are among several recent donations received by the museum. “One of the most recent donations received by the university museum collection have been donated, from the museum was a large collection of art from Emilio Sanchez’s works of art. We acquired 490 of his works this year and they are the museum,” Barnett said.

Barnett said that the public’s interest in cultural heritage is increasing. “There is a tension that exists in this,” he said. Barnett indicated that there is a balance between exhibition and engagement. “Museums must find a balance between exhibition and engagement,” he said. Barnett said that the public’s interest in cultural heritage is increasing. “There is a tension that exists in this,” he said. Barnett indicated that there is a balance between exhibition and engagement. “Museums must find a balance between exhibition and engagement,” he said. Barnett said that the public’s interest in cultural heritage is increasing. “There is a tension that exists in this,” he said. Barnett indicated that there is a balance between exhibition and engagement. “Museums must find a balance between exhibition and engagement,” he said. Barnett said that the public’s interest in cultural heritage is increasing. “There is a tension that exists in this,” he said. Barnett indicated that there is a balance between exhibition and engagement. “Museums must find a balance between exhibition and engagement,” he said.