

City College of New York

Graduate Program in Art History and Museum Studies

New York University

Graduate Program in Museum Studies



“Visible Players in Civic Life”

On Civic Engagement in Museums

Graduate Student Symposium

Lower East Side Tenement Museum

97 Orchard Street

December 6, 2003

11-5:30

“Visible Players in Civic Life” On Civic Engagement in Museums

In *Mastering Civic Engagement: A Challenge to Museums*, the American Association of Museums argued that the museum of the future will not be a container of valuable collections, but “a visible player in civic life.”

In this symposium, we seek to historicize, define, critique and develop this idea through a series of case studies presented by up and coming museum scholars and professionals.

- How have museums historically sought to advance programs of civic engagement?
 - What are the keywords and concepts emergent from this history?
 - How do museums attempt to engage civic issues in the contemporary world?
 - How can museums be useful towards the definition and implementation of new approaches to civic engagement, today?
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Program

11:00-11:30

Welcome and Introductions

Liz Ševčenko, Vice President for Interpretation
Lower East Side Tenement Museum

Harriet F. Senie, Director of Museums Studies; Professor of
Art History
City College of New York

Jeffrey D. Feldman, Assistant Professor of Museum Studies
New York University

11:30-12:45

**Civic Engagement:
European Case Studies**

Eunmi Lee, CCNY

The Transformation of the Louvre into a Public Museum in the Nineteenth Century

Chloé Terrier, NYU

Civic Engagement Through Politics: Museums as Presidential Legacies of France's Vth Republic

Leslie Altnow, NYU

Holographic Engagement with the Holocaust: Vienna's Jewish Museum and Memorial Landscape

Mary Ann Furman, CCNY

Considering the Holocaust: Where Can Civic Debate Take Place?

Matthew Holder, NYU

A Morally Responsible, Postmodern Artwork: Daniel Libeskind and 'Between the Lines'

Maren Zeise, NYU

Comments and Questions for Discussion

10 MINUTE INTERMISSION

12:55-2:10

**Inspiring Civic Engagement
in Urban Communities**

Alison Nunnally, NYU

Making Memories: Museum Engagement through Identity Formation

Emily Carmichael, NYU

Rebuilding the World Trade Center: Using Culture as a Tool for Revitalization and Civic Engagement

Angie Chau, NYU

Response and Responsibility: The Museum of Chinese in the Americas, Civic Engagement and Popular Culture

Amit Cohen, CCNY

The Brooklyn Children's Museum: A Case Study of a Museum and its Community in a Time of Crisis

Katherine Carlton, CCNY

Education Programs as Civic Dialogue

Joachim Baur, NYU

Comments and Questions for Discussion

LUNCH RECESS

2:45-4:00

**Civic Engagement through
Material Culture and Public Art**

Tsering Choedon, NYU

The Tibet Museum: A Long Look Homeward

Julie M. Joseph, NYU

*Memorial vs. Counter Memorial: Remembering at the
National Civil Rights Museum*

Susan Johnson, NYU

*Can a John Wayne Doll Have a Civic Life? The Role of the
Object At The Brooklyn Children's Museum*

Sarah M. Roberts, CCNY

*Masquerade? Art as Civic Engagement/Civic Engagement as
Art*

Caroline Dirks, NYU

The City as Museum

Stephanie Bereau, NYU

Comments and Questions for Discussion

10 MINUTE INTERMISSION

4:10-5:25

**Provocative Issues and
Civic Engagement**

Maria Praetzellis LaCalle, NYU
A Case for Usable History

Marcia Aitcheson, CCNY
The Museum of Sex as a Place for Civic Dialogue

Hiroko Suda, CCNY
Museums and “Censorship” in a Democratic Society: The Brooklyn Museum’s “Sensation”

Brita Helgeson, CCNY
Hans Haacke: Institutional Critique as Civic Engagement

Geaninne Gutierrez, CCNY
American Museums and Latino Countries: Can International Civic Engagement Exist?

Wayne Modest, NYU
Comments and Questions for Discussion

5:25

Concluding Discussion

LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM

Chartered in 1988, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum's mission is "to promote tolerance and historical perspective through the presentation and interpretation of a variety of immigrant and migrant experiences on Manhattan's Lower East Side, a gateway to America". The heart of the Museum is its tenement building at 97 Orchard Street, home to an estimated 7,000 people, from over 20 nations, between 1863 and 1935.

The Museum is committed to offering the history of 97 Orchard Street and its families as a tool for addressing related contemporary issues. Through public dialogues on immigration, cultural identity, housing, labor, and social welfare; English programs for new immigrants; contemporary immigrant art programs; and other initiatives, the Museum serves as a center for citizen engagement with questions around immigration today.

The next immigrants to be interpreted at 97 Orchard are Joseph and Bridget Moore, an Irish bartender and his wife living here in 1869.



97 Orchard Street