

16-18 NOVEMBER 2020

RECALIBRATING THE MUSEUM TOGETHER

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Relevance in times of change

SYMPOSIUM

CONCEPT & PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Provisional

Context¹

COVID-19 has represented a humanitarian challenge of an unprecedented magnitude with lasting effects on how people live, work, exchange and play. The pandemic crisis has also revealed on one hand, the strength of museums as an essential social glue and vital connector in society and on the other hand, the fragility of the museum eco-system and of its foundations. Moreover, the rise of anti-racism movements across the globe has called for a systemic change from memory institutions such as museums. The need to revisit the foundations, operating models and mission of museums seems, as a result, more crucial than ever.

Building on the experiences of having gone through sudden and long closures and progressive reopening where it is widely accepted that museums we closed will not be the same as the museums we are reopening, the symposium will gather museum professionals and scholars from around the globe and will provide an unparalleled opportunity to harness collective intelligence to reinvent the museum for the future looking in particular at the lessons learnt over the past 6 months. What did the COVID crisis and the global rise of anti-racism movements change permanently and how does that transform the mission, functions and operations of the museum of tomorrow?

¹ While the symposium is concerned with the future of museums at large, it is important to outline that we are focusing our field of inquiry in this edition on the art museums due to their long history, wide spread across the globe and the multiplicity of their forms.

In this new context, what kind of museums are we building for the future? Who are museums for, and what role does the museum play in representing history and conveying ideas for future generations? How can we ensure that museums are not only there for the ‘super-engaged’ but cater for diverse communities? With the idea of ownership and expertise being called into question, how can museums stay relevant in our rapidly changing world?

Three year after the opening of the Louvre Abu Dhabi and ten years after the seminal symposium “Art Museums Here and Now” organized by NYU Abu Dhabi on its inaugural year, this three-day symposium is inviting museum leaders, practitioners, scholars from the museum field and beyond to come together - in the innovative and pioneering context of the Louvre Abu Dhabi and Saadiyat Island - to seek to answer these questions by interrogating the three ‘traditional’ pillars of the museum namely the Collections, the People and the Building that have so far shaped and structured them.

The ambition of the symposium is to identify for each of these three pillars the challenges at stake and provide food for thoughts to (1) explore what the future might look like (2) why and (3) how we get there. Each strand will comprise a keynote to unpack the core issues at stake, a roundtable involving museums leaders and practitioners and a series of case studies followed by a panel discussion.

Programme

		Morning sessions					Afternoon sessions					
NYC	00am	1am	2am	3am	4am	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	
São Paulo	2am	3am	4am	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	
Dakar	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	
Paris	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	
Abu Dhabi	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	
Mumbai	10.30am	11.30am	12.30pm	1.30pm	2.30pm	3.30pm	4.30pm	5.30pm	6.30pm	7.30pm	8.30pm	
Beijing	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	
Seoul	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	00am	
Sydney	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	00am	1am	2am	
San Francisco	9pm	10pm	11pm	00am	1am	2am	3am	4am	5am	6am	7am	



DAY 1 (MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER)

STRAND 1 | COLLECTIONS - *Objects & Stories*

From collection building to collection sharing: what does the future hold for museum collections?

Page | 2

- *From acquisition to storytelling (Roundtable)*
- *The future of exhibitions in a post-COVID world (roundtable)*
- *Digital collection and narration (case studies – merged with below)*
- *Knowledge sharing in the digital age (panel/roundtable/case studies)*
- *Museum with no collections / Collections with no museums (roundtable)*
- *Modelling the future: new business models (roundtable)*

11.00 – 11.25	Opening remarks Devising The Future
11.30 – 12.45	Roundtable 1 From acquisition to storytelling: what does the future hold for museum collections?
12.45 – 13.30	Virtual lunch
13.30 – 14.00	Keynote speech <i>Re-envisioning The Museum Together</i>
14.00 – 15.15	Roundtable 2 The future of exhibitions in a post-pandemic world
15.15 – 15.30	Virtual coffee-break
15.30 – 17.30	Case studies 1 The sharing of knowledge and experience in the digital age Format: 6 x 15min presentations (introduction) + 25 min panel discussion + 20 min Q&A
17.30 – 18.00	Virtual Coffee break
18.00 – 19.00	Roundtable 3 Modelling the future: new business models for the museums when tourism and blockbusters are being profoundly challenged
19.00 – 20.00	Virtual World Café
20.00 – 20.30	Keynote / Concluding remarks

Tuesday 17th November

STRAND 2 | BUILDING/SITE - *Interaction & Performance*



Does the physical space of museum remain relevant? How museums' increasing civic role transforms museum space?

- *Digital cast court and immateriality of our future (keynote)*
- *The open museum: a space to escape or to connect? (roundtable)*
- *Museum and the third space / Museums as placemakers (case studies)*
- *Between local and global: the new solidarity and collaboration in a post-COVID world (roundtable)*
- *Re-imagining the public space (roundtable)*

STRAND 3 | PEOPLE - Communities & Ownership

Whose museums? Who owns the museums: a museum for the public or of the public?

- *The inclusive museum: what have we learnt from the COVID crisis? (keynote)*
- *Voices of authority: #ownvoices in the museum (roundtable)*
- *Digital engagement and museums (case studies)*
- *Museum and Empathy / Museum and Well-being (case studies)*
- *The future of curatorship (roundtable)*

11.00 – 11.25	Opening remarks Reflexion
11.30 – 12.45	Roundtable 4 The Museum as a re-imagined public space
12.45 – 13.30	Virtual lunch
13.30 – 14.00	Keynote speech
14.00 – 15.15	Roundtable 5 The future of curators
15.15 – 15.30	Virtual coffee-break
15.30 – 17.00	Case studies 2 Museum and Empathy: towards new forms of engagement
17.00 – 17.30	Virtual Coffee break (experiencing empathy in museum experience)
17.30 – 19.30	Roundtable 6 Voices of authority: expertise, participation and inclusion in the museum of tomorrow
19.30 – 20.00	Virtual World Café
20.00 – 20.30	Keynote speech

Wednesday 18th November



11.30 – 12.45 Roundtable 7 | **Museums & Archaeological Sites: Activating the ancient through contemporary in museums**

13.00 – 13.30 Keynote speech

Action learning poster presentations

