

Art Museums, New Technologies and New Media (London, 10.-13.4.02)

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Technologies and New Media

Date: 10/10/02

CALL FOR PAPERS

Articulating the New: Art Museums, New Technologies and New Media

A session at Articulations, the 29th Annual Conference of the Association of Art Historians, Birbeck and University College London, 10-13 April 2003

Recent debates about art museums have focused on the way they not only reflect, but also contribute to shape the culture(s) in which they are immersed. Particularly relevant in the context of these debates, is the functioning of museums as mass communicators with significant definitional power. If we start from the premise that cultural circulation and social exchange are influenced by the technical condition and the material form of the media, then it seems timely to invite reflection on the opportunities and the risks inherent in the use of new technologies in art museums. This strand aims to explore two related areas:

- The use of new technologies and media to interpret art. Issues that could be examined include: the adoption of new technologies as one response to the demands for increased accessibility for more diverse audiences; the possibilities opened by digital archives and databases; the deployment of new technologies to compete with other participants in the culture and leisure industries; and the effect of these strategies on the authority of museums, their cultural role, and the messages they articulate.

- The challenge for museums to present works in new media meaningfully. Among potential topics are interpretative devices that can help the public appreciate works in new media; particular problems experienced by artists and museums when they exhibit this type of art; and changes that may be required in the traditional functions and spaces of art museums to provide an adequate context for works in new media.

Papers are invited from a wide range of perspectives, from case studies to critical analysis, with reference to any type of art museum. Please send your proposal by 1 November 2002 to either of the convenors. Include with

your covering letter: the title of your paper, full name and contact details, institutional affiliation (if any), and abstract of no more than 200 words. If you are an overseas speaker and need to apply for a British Academy grant, please indicate this and state your travel costs. No one may present more than one paper at the conference.

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