

Museums: A World of Wonders

Gordon Wyse and Betty Romer, Spring 2022 seminar

“At the end of the day, the most valuable things are not things, they are experiences, and museums foster experiences through things.”

— Mackenzie Finklea, *Beyond the Halls: An Insider’s Guide to Loving Museums*

“America is a land full of museums. Some are huge and known to all, like the Metropolitan Museum of Art, or the National Air and Space Museum, or the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. And then, descending in familiarity from the less well known through the esoteric to the completely unheard of, there are Little Museums.”

— Lynne Areny and Archie Hobson, *Little Museums*

“My favorite museums tend to be small, the kind that showcase the inventiveness and the life stories of private individuals. Though I admire national museums like the Louvre or the British Museum, when I’m traveling and whenever I set foot in a new city, the first places I rush to see are not these institutions that fill me with a sense of the power of the state and of the history of its people, but those that will allow me to experience the private world and the vision of a passionate individual.”

—Orhan Pamuk, *Small Museums* (NY Times, March 20, 2014)

These quotes illustrate our viewpoint in presenting this seminar—although we do not want to confine our view to American museums. Small museums of the world deserve our attention and celebration.

In this seminar each participant will choose a museum (or a kind of museum) and present it to the group, and then lead subsequent discussion. We hope that participants will choose smaller and/or more idiosyncratic museums. The moderators will provide lists and references for smaller museums, to aid this process.



Museum of Innocence--Istanbul