



TITLE: Art Museums as a Space for True Accesibility

Name: Richa Mehta

Affiliation: Louvre Abu Dhabi

Country: United Arab Emirates

Email ID: rmehta@louvreabudhabi.ae

ABSTRACT (upto 300 words)

Although, museums were only created for the elite, historically, they have now been transformed to be a space for mass public encounters, regardless of the visitor's class, race, gender, visible, or invisible disabilities or any form of categorization that marginalizes a group of people. Following the post-modernistic movement, museums can offer true accessibility to our community. How so, one might ask, it is through the careful integration of art therapy programs within its space. Museums can now tap into its therapeutic values to cater to the social, physical, and mental well-being needs of the communities. By careful mitigation and planning of recommended theoretical and practical approach related to current research, ethical and multicultural considerations pertaining to the region's demographics, steps can be taken towards achieving universal accessibility.

BIOGRAPHY (upto 200 words)

Richa Mehta is a museum and wellness professional who currently leads on the arts for health and well-being initiatives at the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Whilst finalizing her thesis on museum-based art therapy by July, she has developed education and well-being digital resources for the public as well as co-lead on last year's world mental health day activations. She is also a key referent within the museum's accessibility committee.

She believes that through these opportunities the museum space will become more accessible by implementing a strong museum-based art therapy program catering to people living with mental health illnesses. This stems from her own experiences with mental health and journey of self-exploration through the interaction and personal responses with the creative arts.

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✉ mentalhealth@scientexconferences.com

☎ +1-346-348-1205



Presenter Name: Richa Mehta
Mode of Presentation: Oral/Poster.
Contact number: +971501062717



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