Exhibiting the artist: exhibition development and design in artist studio museums

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Abstract:

Through exhibitions, artist studio museums provide a unique environment to learn about the lives of artists and their artistic process. In this thesis, exhibition development and design practices in artist studio museums, defined as museums that exhibit the work and personal items of an artist in the place where the artist lived and/or worked, are examined. A review of literature is conducted, followed by an analysis of exhibit planning and design practices in three case studies: The Wharton Esherick Studio Museum, in Paoli, Pennsylvania; 101 Spring Street, in New York, New York; and The N.C. Wyeth Studio Museum in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. Overall, to influence the public perception of the artist, it is concluded exhibition design in artist studio museums involves the integration of several elements: utilization of naturally immersive environments; emphasis on the historical and architectural significance of the building and/or site; and the successful integration of objects with their context.

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