

**This multifaceted book features conversations with the art world's most prominent thinkers
and their shifting views on the encyclopedic museum**



LOS ANGELES, CA—Donatien Grau defines the encyclopedic museum as a museum "in which the works of a broad expanse of cultures coexist." It is referred to as encyclopedic because it aspires to be: to include hundreds, if not thousands, of cultures in the same museum, in the same collection, suggesting an innate connection between cultures, no matter how disparate they may be in terms of language, politics, or geography.

Over the last two decades, the encyclopedic museum model has been praised, defended, and criticized for its Eurocentric bias. Debates on provenance, cultural origins, and restitutions have exerted pressure on encyclopedic museums, and indeed on all manner of museums. Is there still a place for an institution dedicated to gathering, preserving, and showcasing all the world's cultures? What can they contribute when the Internet now seems to offer the greater encyclopedia?

In *Under Discussion: The Encyclopedic Museum*, Donatien Grau argues for a geographical shift out of the Western-centric encyclopedic museum towards an "encyclopedic method for museums." He discusses this concept, its reality, challenges and potentials, with some of the art world's most preeminent thinkers, including museum leaders such as Kaywin Feldman, Max Hollein, Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Mikhail Piotrovsky and Hamady Bocoum; artists and architects, like Camille Henrot and Jean Nouvel; scholars, such as Kavita Singh, Bénédicte Savoy, Homi K. Bhabha, Bachir Souleymane Diagne, and Anthony Appiah; journalist Fiammetta Rocco; political leaders such as Irina Bokova and Zaki Nusseibeh.

***Under Discussion: The Encyclopedic Museum* (Getty Publications, \$35.00)** includes revealing and unexpected conversations on the past, present and future of the encyclopedic museum – with and beyond preexisting institutions. This book is an invaluable addition to these critical conversations, and offers brilliant insight into the ever-evolving world of art and museums.

Donatien Grau is a scholar and museum executive. He currently serves as Head of Contemporary Programs at the Musée d'Orsay, Paris.

Includes interviews with:

George Abungu, National Museums of Kenya
Kwame Anthony Appiah, New York University
Homi K. Bhabha, Harvard University
Hamady Bocoum, Musée des Civilisations Noires, Dakar
Irina Bokova, UNESCO
Partha Chatterjee, Columbia University
Thomas Campbell, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco
James Cuno, J. Paul Getty Trust
Bachir Souleymane Diagne, Columbia University
Kaywin Feldman, National Gallery of Art
Marc Fumaroli, Collège de France
Massimiliano Gioni, New Museum
Michael Govan, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Camille Henrot, artist
Henri Loyrette, Musée du Louvre
Philippe de Montebello, New York University
Jean Nouvel, architect
Zaki Nusseibeh, United Arab Emirates

Mikhail Piotrovsky, State Hermitage Museum
Grayson Perry, artist
Krzysztof Pomian, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales
Mari Carmen Ramírez, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Fiammetta Rocco, The Economist
Max Hollein, Metropolitan Museum of Art
Sabyasachi Mukherjee, CSMVS Mumbai
Jean Nouvel, architect
Bénédicte Savoy, Collège de France
Kavita Singh, Jawarhlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Amit Sood, Google Arts & Culture

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