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Rethinking Museums: An Interdisciplinary Academic Conference May 3-4, 2007

Seattle-- Museums are dynamic interdisciplinary organizations, characterized by rapid growth and change. What are the issues involved in the sudden expansion, increased professionalisation, and changing expectations of our cultural institutions? The Museology Graduate Program at the University of Washington aims to address this question through their upcoming conference, *Rethinking Museums: An Interdisciplinary Academic Conference*, to be held on May 3-4, 2007 at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle, WA.

Through workshops, panel discussions, and presentations the conference will focus on the changing and interdisciplinary nature of museums. A venue for expanding professional development, *Rethinking Museums* will provide valuable opportunities for students and emerging professionals to present and learn about current research and converse with their peers. Due to the diverse perspectives of the field of Museology and Museum Studies, this conference is open to all academic disciplines and cultural institutions.

Keynote speaker Carlos Tortolero (President and Founder of Chicago's National Museum of Mexican Art) will address museum-community involvement and the NMMA's transformation over the last decade.

Dr. Mimi Gates (Director, Seattle Art Museum), Dr. Julie Stein (Director, the Burke Museum), and Marilyn Jones (Director, Suquamish Museum) will participate in a panel discussion about the transformation of museums in the greater Seattle area.

Conference registration is free. To register or submit an abstract to present a paper, please visit <http://www.RethinkingMuseums.org>. The conference is organized by the Museology Student Committee for Professional Development and is supported by the Museology Graduate Program, the Learning for Leadership Council, and the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Washington.

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