



Whitaker is the perfect docent – wise, wry, and engaging. Her essays are as captivating as the artworks they describe.

Daniel Gilbert
Professor of Psychology, Harvard University
Author, *Stumbling on Happiness*

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From fatigue in front of art to hope in everyday life . . .

Museum Legs

AMY WHITAKER



From the compulsory school field trip, to the affecting work of art, to the audio-guide jam of people, to the enigmatic wall label, most people have a personal catalogue of experiences in art museums. Amy Whitaker's debut book, ***MUSEUM LEGS: FATIGUE AND HOPE IN THE FACE OF ART*** (Hol Art Books, September 2009), is a collection of essays about political and economic questions around museums, approached at a human scale for a generalist reader, in an irreverent and engaging way.

The book—which takes its title from a term for art fatigue—begins with a question: **Why do so many otherwise curious people get bored and tired in art museums, and why does that matter?** As it turns out, the answer has less to do with art as we know it and more to do with innovation, public life, and the age-old question of how to live.

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MUSEUM LEGS is both an engaging set of essays for exactly the people who are skeptical and a practical resource based on a broad depth of research. Following a theme of the book, learning about museums by reading **MUSEUM LEGS** is as pleasurable and entertaining as it is informative—intellectually empathetic and approachably readable.

Other advance praise for the book may be found at www.museumlegs.com/reviews.

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About the Author

Whitaker writes with a unique background, having both an MBA in economics from Yale and an MFA in painting from the Slade School of Fine Art in London. She has worked in a number of museums, including the Guggenheim, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Tate, as well as for the artist Jenny Holzer and for a New York-based investment firm. Her first degree is from Williams College in political science and studio art. Her drawings and paintings are held in collections in the United States and United Kingdom. She has worked as an economics fellow studying US regulatory agencies at Yale and in legal research at Harvard. She likes teaching economic theory to artists—as compiled in the artist's book *Business School for Artists*—and, conversely, teaching painting and a crash course in art history to businesspeople. Her work has appeared previously in the British journal *Architectural Design* and in the *New York Times*. Originally from the South, she currently divides her time between New York and London. This is her first book.

About Hol Art Books

Founded by Greg Albers and based in Tucson, Arizona, Hol Art Books is a new independent press dedicated to publishing and promoting exceptional writing on visual art, sometimes outside the usual genre conventions of contemporary art writing. Following Hol's collaborative publishing model, **MUSEUM LEGS** was shepherded by a team including: Catherine Casalino, designer; Libby Hruska, editor; and Meghan Phillips, publicist. To contact the team, please write to museumlegs@holartbooks.com.

Museum Legs: Fatigue and Hope in the Face of Art

Amy Whitaker

Hardcover: 6" x 9"; ISBN: 978-1-936102-01-3; \$34.00

Trade paperback: 5" x 8"; ISBN: 978-1-936102-00-6

E-book bundle: PDF/EPUB/MOBI; ISBN: 978-1-936102-20-0; \$10.00

Whitaker writes with such wit and style—I was completely absorbed and laughed and nodded in equal measure. Really, I loved it.

Sophie Howarth
Director
The School of Life, London

September 13, 2009
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