

## **A World in Each Room**

***Although the Columbia Museum of Art might not surpass it's competition, it is still a fun visit for anyone in the Columbia area.***

Most museums, such as the Museum of Natural history in New York sell themselves on legacy (and history of course). That is not the case for the nineteen year old and relatively young Columbia Museum of Art. Located on the corner of a busy intersection, you would be forgiven for noticing the large abstract sculptures in the front lawn, long before you notice the large doors of the impressive museum.

The lobby of the museum does not give the best first impression. It is very quiet and barren with art few and far between. CMA's reception is very kind and greets you from the moment you step inside however, and that will help calm the viewer down once they see the gift shop's prices. Ticket fare for students is very cheap, at five dollars, while an adult ticket will cost you around \$12.

Once you enter the permanent exhibit you are swept into a dark and quiet atmospheric room, with Roman artwork and sculptures that greet you. The gallery features everything from Renaissance era oil paintings depicting the Bible's stories, to ancient Chinese sculptures, and then realistic paintings from the 1900's and everything inbetween. Some galleries are noticeably small and disappointing, such as The Psychedelic Design which features artwork from the sixties.

A noticeable lack of art from areas like Africa, hurts the museums encompassing collection. This does not detract a lot from the overall enjoyment of the gallery and the small touches such as nice wooden floor and how the colors of the walls change from room to room make it easy to get lost in the art.

Pieces like the "*Immaculate Conception*" by Jusepe de Ribera and the "*Virgin in Adoration*" by the Circle of Matteo Galgali are beautiful oil paintings that can only be seen in their true beauty in person. Not every piece is a winner however, and the museum displays some pottery and furniture that is not interesting enough to hold the attention of the average viewer. For those interested in learning more about these pieces, you can listen to detailed explanations of the history of some of the pieces displayed through the museum's audio tracks.

The temporary exhibit *Enduring Spirit: The Art of Tyrone Geter* is a near perfect exhibit and the museum will be very hurt when it leaves on June 11th. The exhibit features very powerful art that offers some insightful commentary on today's societal issues. "*The Art of the Misdirect 1,2, and 3*" are worth the price of admission alone.

Although the museum might not keep its visitors coming back, it is worth visiting for the relatively low price of admission and almost everyone will find something they enjoy within those large doors. If you are in the area and looking for something fun to do, you could do a lot worse than the Columbia Museum of Art.