



Squaring the Circle Reflections on a Courteous Museum (Summary)

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Although the Museum as a public service institution embodies a democratic ideal, it is also a sign or agent of distinction in the “bourdieusien” sense of the word. A blind spot of our practices, this identity paradox is often accompanied by a “vertical” mediation concept. What is the point of a priority of constantly increasing profit?: the expectation of opening up museums to a new public is less of a response to a democratic demand than to an economic injunction. Subsequently, how do we display the extent of the missions for the Museum? How do we avoid giving in to the verticality or signals of making profit? Maybe the solution can be found in the principle of courtesy to transform the idea of the same mediation.

[Complete text in french](#)