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Is the Web Browser Replacing the Art Gallery?

A real-life art gallery is very different than an online art gallery for many reasons. The differences range from the kinds of art that is being displayed to the overall experience you will have. Both have their pros and cons and with these we will answer the question “is the web browser replacing the art gallery?”

Finding an online art gallery was much more difficult than you might think. You cannot simply type in “online art gallery” and expect to find exactly what you are looking for. After 20 to 25 minutes of searching the web and coming up with nothing, I decided to search for “best online art galleries.” This seemed to work because I stumbled upon a site called lifehack.org which gave me multiple online art galleries that were allegedly “the best.” However, I found that most of the online art galleries are more of an art store than they are art galleries. Every artist is trying to sell their work rather than just simply displaying it for others to see.

One of the benefits to staying home and looking at online art galleries is that you can see much more in one sitting; unlike going to a real-life gallery where your only able to see what they have in that one location. An online art gallery also gives the viewer the option to view multiple styles of art in one place. You have many more choices as to what style of art you would like to view and the only thing that might change may be what website you browse.

Looking for art galleries in real life was much easier and took very little time. All I had to do was search “local art galleries in aurora” and immediately got multiple art galleries that would have worked perfectly. However, because of the lack of time I allocated for myself, I ended up going to the Waubensee art gallery.

The experience you get if you go to an art gallery in real-life will for sure be a memorable one. You become more engaged to the experience and the artwork around you. During my time at the Waubensee art gallery, I was confused at first as to what the artist was trying to express or show. It looked to me like there were just pictures on the wall that resembled a skyline. After listening more to the audio recording that was playing in the background, I started to put together that this is where violent deaths' have taken place do to a crime. The experience of looking at all the pictures and figuring out for myself what is actually taking place is something that I don't believe can be done through a computer screen, or if it can it won't be as engaging. When you take the time to go out and view art in a place where everyone else is also viewing the same art, it is a great experience because, in the case of the Waubensee art gallery, everyone that was there was trying to figure out what the pictures meant. It is a much more social experience which makes getting out of your house and viewing the art in real-life all the more memorable.

As for viewing art in an online art gallery, the experience is exactly what you think it might be like. You are essentially sitting in front of a computer monitor on the couch or in your office and looking at many different paintings and other artworks; which usually do not have any meaning but are created just to look good and be posted.

As for time, the online art gallery (when you finally find a suitable site) does not take a long time to experience. For an art gallery in real-life, you have to allocate time in for driving and experiencing the art gallery to fully enjoy what it has to offer; unlike the online art gallery where you can spend much less time for travel and experience.

The experience of two galleries could not be more different. If you are a person who wants to view art from the comfort of their own home or are usually in a time crunch, then maybe searching online galleries is what you prefer. However, if you want to view art and

actually have a real experience while doing it, then I would encourage you to go to a real-life art gallery. I like to compare the two art galleries to watching a movie. When you go to movie theater you are easily more immersed than just simply playing the movie on your regular television. Just as when you go to an art gallery, you are much more involved with the art and people around you. To answer the question “is the web browser replacing the art gallery,” my immediate answer would be no. Sure in either situation you are viewing art, but what your missing with an online art gallery is the social experience and the ability to fully immerse yourself.

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Works Cited

<http://www.lifehack.org/382288/the-top-five-online-art-galleries>

<https://www.artslant.com/chi>

<http://www.thetbank.com/>

<http://www.artspace.com/>

<https://www.artspan.com/>

Waubonsee Community College Art Gallery