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Rhetorical Analysis: Contemporary Culture Collections

I am not really a museum guy and the last time I had visited a museum was for a school trip twelve years ago. When I got this assignment, I planned to visit Burke Museum with my friend Nilay. I was shocked to see that we have such a big museum right in our university. We toured the whole museum and analysed different spaces over there. I particularly liked a space in contemporary culture collections showcasing traditional canoes and paddles used.



The space displays various canoes and paddles used by the indigenous populations centuries ago. They all have unique designs and purposes which are explained in the information boards in front of them. They are also accompanied by a modern photo background of a bunch of people riding a canoe in the waters which depicts how they are used to the audience.

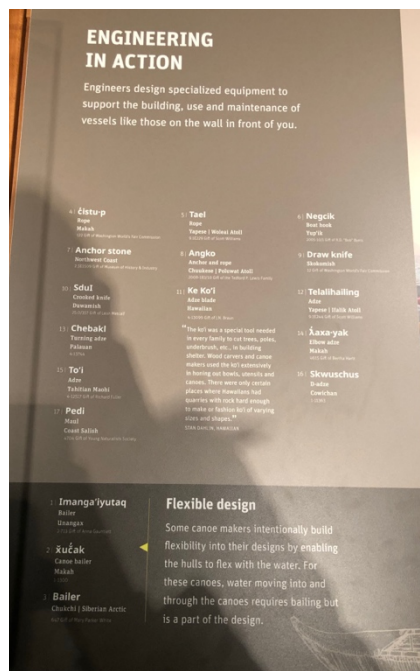
The whole room is not actually as bright as this photograph. The space has a bunch of lights focusing on this scene attracting people's attention to the most important artefact in the room. The canoes are hung to the ceiling creating a perfect placement effect. It makes it look like that the canoes are bolted to the wall. The paddles are displayed too which are arranged at the top and the bottom of the centrally positioned canoe. The way everything is arranged on

the wall is very impressive in itself. The colour combinations used for the background as well as the artefacts displayed had a very good contrast calling for audience's attention.

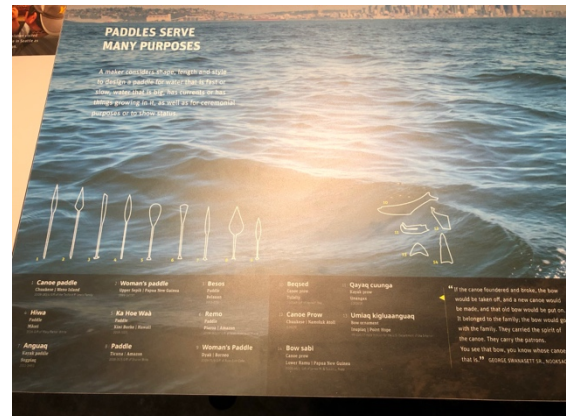
There is a podium like structure in the front of the space, consisting of some tools in a glass enclosure and information boards showing various important facts about the artefacts. The glass enclosure showcased important ancient tools used by the rowers like rope, anchors, and hammers.



All the tools had a number written besides them and was accompanied by a numbered list of information about each of them including their native name.



There was another information board showcasing information about each of the paddles displayed. It also showed significances of different kinds of paddles which differed in shape, length, and style. Different designs were also used for ceremonial purposes or to show status.



There was also a showcase of smaller models of boats and canoes used in the ancient eras. As one of the information boards said, “these models are blueprints of Indigenous Ingenuity”.



I would say that the museum did a justice to the indigenous tribes and the artefacts by displaying them all in a spectacular manner and showcasing all the relevant information about them. I finally enjoyed a trip to a museum.