**National cultures and hybrid narration: Museums for the future**

“In the world in which I travel, I am endlessly creating myself”\(^1\).

Accepting as true the assertion that a city, with its works and its good museums, today finds itself in the middle of a theme involving the construction of a modern civic community\(^2\), one intends to overturn the idea of museum as a place of consolidation, conservation and transmission of the identity of a dominant social group, as well as the traditional relationship between this institution and the civil society it represents\(^3\), in order to define new museological and ostensive strategies for the multiethnic and intercultural metropolis. With this purpose, changing the concept of *contact zone* formulated by M. L. Pratt\(^4\), one may reconsider the identity of the museum as a historical theme, tackled on the basis of new cultural productions and new relations. Consequently, if we consider them as "contact areas", their organizational structure understood as "collection" becomes a topical historical, political and moral relation: an exchange of power relations. In a manner that is in some aspects utopian, museums are being reconsidered as public venues for collaboration, shared control and complex translation; places of power turned into places of cultural integration\(^5\). It is clear that a vision of this kind appears, to some extent, utopian due to the history of museums and their relationship with national contexts, but the current hybridation of contemporary culture calls for a profound revision.

“[…] If museum provoked a response in this fashion it would be forced to abandon the disciplinary predications of an authorised ‘tradition’ […]. Here the limits of its precise location would open the door on to the interrogations that arrive from elsewhere. Museum finds itself responding not only to the increasingly diasporic condition of the contemporary world, but would itself become increasingly diasporic […]”\(^6\).

**Gennaro Postiglione**

PhD Architect, Associate Professor in Interior Architecture  
DPA-Politecnico di Milano  
P.zza leonardo da Vinci 32  
20133 Milano-Italy  
gennaro.postiglione@polimi.it

---

\(^3\) Ref.: T. Bennett, op.cit.  