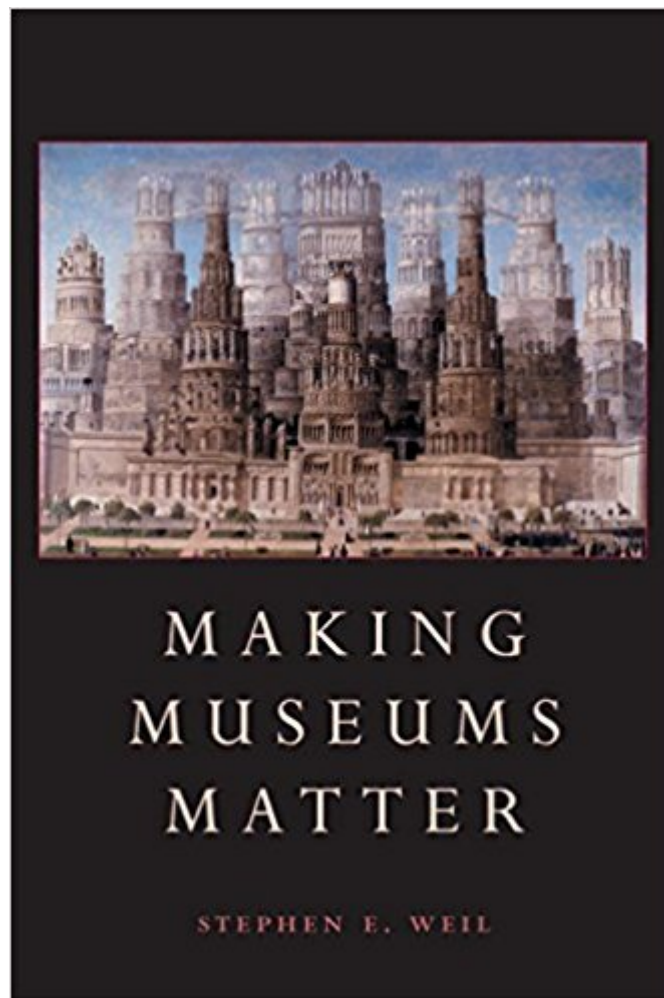


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# Making Museums Matter



## Synopsis

In this volume of 29 essays, Weil's overarching concern is that museums be able to "earn their keep" that they make themselves matter in an environment of potentially shrinking resources. Also included in this collection are reflections on the special qualities of art museums, an investigation into the relationship of current copyright law to the visual arts, a detailed consideration of how the museums and legal system of the United States have coped with the problem of Nazi-era art, and a series of delightfully provocative training exercises for those anticipating entry into the museum field.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An outstanding selection of informed and informative essays about the difference that museums make, their role in preserving and showcasing history and art to the public, cost-related problems plaguing museums today, and a great deal more. Enthusiastically recommended as a most thoughtful and authoritative treatise on these notable and noble institutions." —Midwest Book Review —"Mr. Weil's work will assist us all to understand that even our most enlightened assumptions require daily visits if they are to be fresh. And, it seems clear to me after experiencing this collection, such visits must not be paid alone, but in groups of colleagues from across every museum stratum." —Curator: The Museum Journal —"Must-read for museum professionals, supporters, and funding sources, and [it] will certainly be relevant to anyone interested in the future of

museums. — Science

Stephen E. Weil is the emeritus senior scholar in the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Museum Studies. He served as deputy director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, from 1974 to 1995 and was previously administrator of the Whitney Museum of American Art. He is the author of *Rethinking the Museum and Other Meditations* (1990) and *Beauty and the Beasts* (1983), both published by Smithsonian Institution Press, as well as coauthor of several scholarly treatises on art and the law.

This is an insightful book that provides 24 essays covering many aspects of museums in today's society. I found a lot of the essays reflect many of my own concerns and beliefs. I would love to have a seminar with graduate students and thoroughly explore each essay through discussion and extended research. It was written in 2002, yet it is still relevant today. Highly recommend for those interested in museums and how museums might better operate in the future.

Good book. Quite dull but if this subject interests you - is quite informative!

Thanks.

A very good book. If you are a museum professional, this would be a good book to have in your library.

I needed this text for a graduate course I am taking--it arrived in the condition promised and has been an interesting read so far. Thank you!

Book was in great condition, as seller promised. It arrived promptly after I ordered. Book is used a lot in museum studies courses.

Written by Stephen E. Weil experienced and witty commentator on the museum community who is currently the Scholar Emeritus in the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Education and Museum Studies, *Making Museums Matter* is an outstanding selection of informed and informative essays about the difference that museums make, their role in preserving and showcasing history and art to the public, cost-related problems plaguing museums today, and a great deal more. Making

Museums Matter is enthusiastically recommended as a most thoughtful and authoritative treatise on these notable and noble institutions.

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