

Contribution to Victoria and Albert Museum Anniversary Album.

Nowadays, museums are expected to present an iconic facade to the world. Something the V and A has so far avoided. Instead, it remains a building that is hard to hold in the mind's eye, with the scale and rambling complexity of a small town. Passages, alleyways, and rooms that time forgot. Main thoroughfares, bridges and balconies, and a central piazza that would not look out of place in the Vatican. And under it's many roofs, a collection of objects that not only attends to inspired moments of looking and seeing (in every medium), but to the time and space required to make, furnish, clothe and decorate. Just as the building itself is a silent maze adjoining two main roads, so the worlds it houses are complete and specific, slow, fast, temporary and eternal. Hopes for a better world that is driven by intelligent leadership have often come to nothing. But the ending of the "voluntary contribution" on entry to this museum, marked a very civilized moment. Long live the V and A.

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