

“In Itself” and “for Itself”: the Different Exhibition Strategies in Palau

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Abstract

Palau is a small island country, which has 20,000 population, and there are two museums in this country. One is Belau National Museum which is a half-government institute. The another one is Etpison Museum, which is a private museum run by a family, they hire a Naturalist to organize the exhibition. Generally, the “National Museum” supposed to have more completed collections about this country than the private museum. However, the situation in Palau is opposite. In the first floor, BNM has the exhibition of natural history, archaeology, and cultural objects, while on the second floor; all the colonial countries display what they had done in Palau. Etpison Museum has displayed the most well known Palauan culture, such as Palauan money (udoud), “Stone face” (monolith). They also display other Micronesian cultures. The exhibition of these two museums has display two different strategies of representing their own culture. This paper is going to analyze the different exhibition strategy to discuss the possibilities of “local” or “indigenous” museum.

Keywords: Indigenous Museum, Exhibition Strategies, Palau