A Museum Without Walls: Getting Art Out on the Stage

To the young, museums often seem dark and dreary spaces
Whose worthy objects their memories all too soon erases
Before each of the art objects stands the most scholarly of text
That kills the viewer’s interest in the art that always comes next
No sense it makes to tell the viewer what every art piece means
When the truest gift of all great art is what each viewer gleans
In gallery after gallery the same approach proceeds
And with station after station all interests in art recedes
A new Director of Galleries thought this style such a bore
Especially to the younger students, who need Art’s message more
His answer to the interest in art that suffered campus falls
Make Plattsburgh, a unique campus, A Museum Without Walls
Bring the Art out to the Students, not the other way around
To the worthy world of scholars his solution seemed unsound
So they search the sacred texts, to find out what was truly so
Books of Art are “Museums Without Walls,” said Andre Malraux
With pedigree established, Ed Brohel worked at rapid pace
Placing sculptures across the campus as in Olympic race
With attitude on art at the college seen as just more waste
He placed striking sculpture on campus in every vacant space
The Students soon looked on art, not as some rare and arcane thing
But objects that they saw each day, as they flew by on the wing
No one could just ignore them, with so many placed all around
In time, the reaction came, a wink, or smile, even a frown
Some even look up from their iPhones, at all the art that’s there
So for at least a moment, wonder of Art become aware
Along with all the great teachers, Ed Brohel knew all too well
Young students always learn the best from lessons that show not tell
True art always speaks on and on to every era and age
But it takes Museums Without Walls to get it on their stage
So perhaps in time, on Ed and Bette, a greater honor falls
Starting the momentum for a World Museum Without Walls

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