

# Opinion

## Museum going gets tough

By CHYNA GEIB

PHOTOGRAPER  
CMG5332@PSU.EDU

Over spring break I went to New York City to walk around, shop, see some interesting characters, and visit the Museum of Modern

Art (MoMA). It was decided that while we were there we would visit the Tim Burton exhibit.

We had pre-chosen reserved times as there were to be a limited amount of people in the exhibit at a time. What a disappointment it was to realize that not only did the museum not bother to stick to reserved times, but there was not anyone around checking to see that the limit had not been met. Regardless of the mob of people, we decided it was now or never and moved forward to try and get to the exhibit.

You walk in through the mouth of some creature created by Burton, and you see several statues and figurines made from various mediums scattered throughout the first room. The next only path in is through a tiny walkway with a wall of video clips and short cartoons playing. They seemed like something good to watch, but with the amount of people shoved onto this pathway, it was no place for someone interested in actually paying attention to what was being played.

The next couple of areas are really just a big room sectioned off into three parts. There were plenty of the aforementioned figurines and statues of characters and set pieces, along with memorabilia from movies such as *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Beetlejuice*, and *Edward Scissorhands*. The scissor hand and the many faces of Jack Skellington were there, as well as suits and pieces of clothing from *Beetlejuice* and *Batman*. For anyone who has seen Tim Burton's movies, it was a nice little collection of things anyone would love to have sitting in their room somewhere to show off.

The other thing that was present at the exhibit, like small wonders and jewels of their

own, were his personal sketches and drawings hung up all over the walls. You can see in these just what goes on in Burton's mind as many of them are of no real thing at all, but a mixture of this and that, leading into characters we have known, and characters or ideas we will never see. It was definitely worth it being pushed and shoved by the mob of people, mostly inconsiderate to the fact that you are also trying to see just what they are, just to be able to see the sketches and drawings from his personal sketchbook.

We ended up not spending a whole lot of time at the Tim Burton exhibit. The crowd eventually became overwhelming and the glimpses we did get satisfied our curiosity. The rest of the museum, while not so crowded, was not much different from the Burton exhibit. Unfortunately, it seemed as though many of the people were there solely for pictures with the works of art, rather than actually seeing the art itself. Flashes were going off left and right, despite the number of signs and warnings from security, people were frenzied around certain pieces and could not be moved aside so that others could see. Salvador Dali's *The Persistence of Memory* was the smallest painting in the room, yet it took almost 20 minutes to even get a full view of the painting. Person after person wanted a photograph with it, of it, around it.

It seems as though people have become quite distanced from the reason that art is displayed in the first place. It is there to be viewed, not fought over. Museums are to be a place where one can view the works, think about them, write, draw, examine. I go to museums a couple of times a year, and I see this trend growing no matter what time of the year, what day of the week, or time of the day you go (although it is always busier on weekends and holidays). Next time you go to a museum, just keep in mind that others are there to view the work the same as you are. Also, there are reasons they ask you for no flash photography, and ask you not to stand on, touch, or move pieces of work.

Keep it real, keep it considerate, and keep it under some sort of control please.



Pictured above is the Tim Burton wall.  
Photo by Chyna Geib/ The Capital Times