Introductory Note:

An information text provides solely factual and real information. Like a biography, an information text provides all the facts and details, except instead of a person, it is usually of a topic, event, or place. When I was in my freshman year of college, I took a course called the Arts of New York City. Due to that class, I found out that Queens College had a museum called the Godwin Ternbach Museum. I wanted to take the opportunity to share about this museum and what it had to offer to other students. By encouraging students to write about a topic that interests them or they are passionate about, like I was allowed, it motivates students to build their knowledge as well as propels them to enjoy writing.

Free Museum at Queens College

Queens College holds many surprises. Queens College has a farm, a DMV, what more is there to know? Here's yet another surprise: Queens College has its very own museum.

Located in Klapper hall, if you enter through the side where the inhabitable orbs (the giant balls), you will find yourself at the Godwin Ternbach Museum. This nonprofit institution began as a teaching museum for art students, and has expanded to the general public. The museum has collected over seven thousand objects from various cultures and serves as an institution that stands for cultural diversity.

Maria Cristina Pio and Louise Weinberg serve as co-directors for the museum. The director of Education and Administration, Maria Pio, told *The Knight News*, "The mission of the museum is to organize cultural exhibitions and programs of contemporary and historical significance for the diverse audiences of Queens and the metropolitan region—students, faculty and public alike. The education programs in conjunction with the exhibitions and collection serve as a catalyst for exploration, creativity and active conversation of the art on view." The director of exhibitions/collections and curator, Louise Weinberg, also states, "We want students to come in or walk through the lobby and something catches their eye. We know everybody's busy, we know everybody's looking at their phones, but it is our job to incite wonder and it's our job to tell stories about the objects and make them relevant."

The Godwin Ternbach Museum will reopen on October 17th with a new exhibition called “Exploring the Language of Form”. When you think of a museum, usually, the first thing you would imagine or see when you search it up is a room full of paintings. However, this new exhibition presents a new and unique experience from the typical museums: they plan to solely focus on presenting three dimensional objects and sculptures. In the museum’s Lobby Gallery, another new exhibition, “Wunderkammer II: Animalia,” is opening concurrently highlighting a multi-cultural, global selection of works demonstrating the primal relationships of humans and the animal world. The staff will be hosting a welcoming reception for these on the opening day from six to eight in the evening. Everyone is welcome.

While the museum is closed in-person as they set up the new exhibitions, it still has so much to offer. You can visit the Godwin-Ternbach Museum website and explore both virtual and past exhibitions. The Godwin Ternbach Museum also continues to host virtual talk sessions, which you can join on their youtube channel, as well as workshops, such as art and nature walks. GT catalogs , such as the Family Activity Guide, guide and assist viewers in interacting with art pieces, even from home. All of these resources are free and accessible to the public.

The museum also provides programs and possibilities for internships, depending on the semester. The museum works with schools from K-12 to plan class trips or virtual visits, where they encourage students to learn about and reflect on the objects. Internship opportunities are evolving and changing depending on the semester, but to those who may be interested, it can provide a valuable experience.

Working with the museum provides the opportunity to develop public speaking and educational experience, as well as a chance to explore new career paths. The museum offers a small stipend as determined by funding, or it can count for course credit.

Museums can be intimidating at first. Whether you have been to a museum on a mandatory class trip or forced to go there along with a friend, you might have been left wondering, "Do I really belong here?". Here at the Godwin Ternbach Museum, Maria and Louise aim to create a welcoming environment that speaks to all students. Maria states, "You meet the visitor at different points and I think that's really what museums are meant to do. They're not meant to shut the doors for only those that may know specifics about certain works of arts, they are really meant to welcome everyone."

Keep up to date by following their instagram @gtmuseum or checking their website at gtmuseum.org. If you have any questions, you can visit their website and contact them either through email or phone number.