Public Art: Images and Sources for the Student Researcher

Public art on a university campus reinforces campus identity, enriches the sense of place, creates landmarks and meeting spaces, and serves as both art and infrastructure (e.g., seating). At the University of New Mexico, works of public art have attracted praise and admiration, as well as harsh newspaper editorials and student protests. Not surprisingly, works of public art are frequently the subject of student projects. Students are often frustrated in their research, however.

Public art is often unlabeled and may have been executed by artists who are not prominent in the literature. Students may overlook regional, ethnic or retrospective indices, as well as archival material. This poster session highlighted my ongoing project (with colleague Carroll Botts) to organize images and sources on our university’s public art collection. This information is currently presented on a LibGuide page, although we plan to eventually develop an interactive map for presentation to a campus-wide community.

Presenter
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