Exhibitionary Practice: Making Meaning with Objects

Working with your table partners (3-4), be a curatorial team for the morning.

Of the 6 objects available, select 3 that relate to each other in some way—through form, material, content, personal, or other associations.

Compose a title for the exhibition comprised of 1 to 7 words.

With the limited props available, be prepared to present the three objects as an exhibition—so that special relationships and other positional cues guide the viewer to a particular “reading” and set of meanings.

Write a label comprised of up to 200 words.

Include basic information about each object (captions)

Include a “Big Idea” statement.

A Big Idea is a sentence, or statement, of what the exhibition is about. It is a statement in one sentence, with a subject, an action, and a consequence.

*“Space is the medium in which ideas are visually phrased. Installation is both presentation and commentary, documentation and interpretation. Galleries are paragraphs, the walls and formal subdivisions of the floors are sentences, clusters of works are clauses, and individual works, in varying degrees, operate as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and often more than one of these functions according to their context.”*

Robert Storr, Dean, Yale School of Art; former Curator at the Museum of Modern Art, “Show and Tell” (What Makes a Great Exhibition?)” 2007, 23

NOTE: objects included a rock with fossil, toy car, ear of Indian corn, small ceramic pot—old, small female classical bust (plaster reproduction), XX

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