

## The object: a workshop on materiality

Proposed by Nina Liebenberg

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**Duration: 6 – 10 June (full days 09.00 – 16.00, includes lectures and practical sessions)**

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### Overview:

This workshop aims to introduce recent thinking and writing about objects - and to create a forum for experimental activations of this scholarship. Since the dedicated study of objects does not reside neatly within a single discipline, we will explore a suite of different approaches to material culture. Speakers from various academic fields ranging from art history, science, classical studies, digital media, design history, feminism, film and television studies, history, philosophy, psychoanalysis, religious studies and visual culture will share their insights during the morning sessions. In the afternoons, students will convert theory into practice with a range of practical exercises - all of which will hopefully allow us to heed Wordsworth's bold injunction to "see into the life of things".

6 June Monday	9.00 – 10.00 Nina Liebenberg: Curating objects: exploring Pitt Rivers, <i>Infinitum</i> , <i>Documenta 13</i> , <i>The Phantom Museum</i> , <i>The Encyclopaedic Palace</i> and <i>Curiosity CLXXV</i> (CLT)  10.30 – 11.30 Dr Mark Solms: The object of psychoanalysis (CLT)	Lunch 12 - 1	1.30 – 3.30 Screening: Antique Roadshow; Neil MacGregor's A history of the world in 100 objects (CLT)
7 June Tuesday	9.00 – 10.00 Penny Siopis: Materiality (MLT)  10.30 – 11.30 Ryna Cilliers: Boundary Objects (MLT)	Lunch 12 - 1	1.30 – 4.00 Practical session: Part 1 (Project Space)
8 June Wednesday	9.00 – 10.00 Bonnita Bennet: Traumatic	Lunch 12 - 1	1.30 – 4.00 Practical session: Part 2

	objects in the archive (District Six Museum)  10.30 – 11.30 Nina Liebenberg: Curatorship and the empathy of objects (MLT)		(Project Space)
9 June Thursday	09.00 – 10.00 Nick Zachariou: Archeological objects (MLT)  10.30 – 12.00: Between Subject and Object (MLT)	Lunch 12 – 1	1.30 – 2.30 Fabian Saptouw: The book as object (MLT) 2.30 – 4 Stephen Inggs: Index (MLT)
10 June Friday	9.00 – 12.30 Visiting object collections in university (Upper campus and medical campus)	Lunch 12 - 1	1.30 - 4 Watch Peter Greenaway (Telephone; Windows); Christian Marcley (MLT)

Readings:

Appadurai, A. (ed.). 1986. *The social life of things: commodities in cultural perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bennett, J. 2010. *Vibrant matter: a political ecology of things*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Brown, B. 2010. Objects, others and us (the refabrication of things). *Critical Inquiry*. 36(2): 183–217.

Brown, B. 1999. The secret life of things (Virginia Woolf and the Matter of Modernism). *Modernism/Modernity* 6(2): 1-28.

Brown, B. 2001. Thing theory. *Critical Inquiry* 28 (1): 1-22.

Daston, L. 2000. *Biographies of scientific objects*. Chicago : University of Chicago Press.

Elkins, J. 1996. *The object stares back: on the nature of seeing*. San Diego; New York; London: A Harvest Book.

MacGregor, N. 2010. A history of the world in 100 Objects. BBC Radio 4 podcasts. [Online]

McShine, K. 1999. *The museum as muse*. New York: The Museum of Modern Art.

Miller, D. 2008. *The comfort of things*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Miller, D. 2010. *Stuff*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Miller, D. 1998. *Material cultures: why some things matter*. University College London Press.

Pamuk, O. 2012. *The innocence of objects*. New York: Abrams.

Pearce, S. 1996. *Interpreting objects and collections*. London: Routledge

Purcell, R & Gould, S.J. 1992. *Finder's keepers: eight collectors*. New York and. London: W.

W. Norton & Co..

Putnam, J. 2001. *Art and artifact: the museum as medium*. London: Thames and Hudson.

Sheehy, C; Horigan, B. & Robertson, B. 2006. *Cabinet of curiosities: Mark Dion and the university as installation*. Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press.

Skotnes, P., van Embden, G & Langerman F. 2004. '*Curiosity CLXXV: a paper cabinet*'. Cape Town: LLAREC Series in Visual History.

Spalding, J. 2002. *The poetic museum: reviving historic collections*. Munich ; New York : Prestel.

Vervoordt, A. (ed). 2009. *In-finitum*. Wijnegem:Vervoordt Foundation.

Vogel, S. 2003. Always true to the object in our fashion. In *Grasping the world: the idea of the museum*. D. Preziosi & C. Farago, Eds. London: Ashgate. 653–62..

Woolf, V. 1944. Solid Objects. In *A Haunted House and Other Stories, collected by Leonard Woolf*. New York: Harcourt, Brace.