

The order of things: a workshop on taxonomy

Proposed by Nina Liebenberg

Duration: 14 – 18 July (full days 09.00 – 16.00, includes lectures and practical sessions), exhibition run 24 July to 17 August (de-/installation, walkabouts)

Overview:

Investigating ideas and systems of display, archiving, classification, storage and curatorship, this workshop aims to familiarise students with the concerns of exhibition making with a focus on taxonomy as a tool to engage with collections on a creative and critical level. Through the reappraisal of traditional methods, students will be encouraged to use alternative devices of appropriation, mimicking and reinterpretation, to renegotiate meaning.

As a broad-ranging device, discussions will ensue around various topics which include: a historical overview into the nature of collecting – from the Wunderkammer to contemporary artists using the museum as medium; the digital archive and its potential as curatorial device for cross-pollination, information and re-curating existing collections; artists' discussions of their work; the politics of renegotiating old systems of classification in relation to a medical collection; the shifting process of classifying the natural world; and the taxonomy of metaphor in relation to museums of fiction.

Along with various speakers from numerous disciplines, the workshop will also include a culinary exploration into the innovative historical food pairings of West Coast chef and forager, Kobus van der Merwe, tastings sourced from Niki Segnit's *Flavour Thesaurus* and discussions around the numerous artist/curator-run restaurants ranging from Marinetti's La Taverna del Santopalato to Ulrich Krauss's Zagreus Project. Peter Greenaway's *A Zed and Two Noughts* will be on show on Thursday, 17 July.

During the afternoon sessions, students will implement the various methods discussed in the morning sessions to curate different collections. These exercises will result in an exhibition running from 24 July to 17 August in The Bindery.

14 July Monday	9.00 – 10.00 Nina Liebenberg <i>Historical overview and contemporary practice</i> 10.30 – 11.30 Josh Ginsburg <i>The digital archive</i>	Lunch 12 - 1	1.30 - 4 Practical Session: Exploring various artistic methodologies
15 July Tuesday	9.00 – 10.00 Fritha Langerman: <i>Subtle Thresholds; R-A-T: An associative ordering</i> 10.30 – 11.30 Penny Siopis: On her practice at large – and interventions in the Freud Museum, London	Lunch 12 - 1	1.30 - 4 Practical Session: Part 1 Sorting, arranging and labeling (Working towards exhibition - <i>Title TBA</i>)
16 July Wednesday	9.00 – 10.00 Nina Liebenberg <i>Classifying metaphor: Exploring David Wilson's The Museum of Jurassic Technology, The Phantom Museum (Wellcome Collection) and Orhan Pamuk's The Museum of Innocence</i> 11.00 – 12.00 Dr Jane Yeats (curator of the Pathology Learning Centre, Groote Schoor) <i>Dilemmas in a museum of disease</i>	Lunch 12 - 1	1.30 - 4 Practical Session: Part 2 Sorting, arranging and labeling (Working towards exhibition - <i>Title TBA</i>)
17 July Thursday	9.00 – 10.00 Nina Liebenberg <i>Artist/curator run restaurants</i> 10.00 – 12.00 Culinary session with chef Kobus van der	Lunch 12 – 1 Resulting from workshop session	1.30 - 4 Watch Peter Greenaway, <i>A Zed and Two Noughts</i> Open discussion

	Merwe		
18 July Friday	<p>09.00 – 10.00 Dr Hamish Robertson (Iziko): <i>Worlds within worlds - the taxonomic framework underpinning the story of life</i></p> <p>10.30 – 11.30 Nina Liebenberg <i>The Encyclopedic Palace: Overview of the Venice Biennale and taxonomy as curatorial device</i></p>	Lunch 12 - 1	<p>1.30 – 4 Practical Session: Part 3 Sorting, arranging and labeling (Working towards exhibition - <i>Title TBA</i>)</p>

Install exhibition: 21 – 23 July; Exhibition opening 24 July; Exhibition run 25 July to 17 August in The Bindery.

Readings:

Borges, J. L. 2003. The garden of forking paths; The book of sands; The library of Babel. (Online) Available:

http://posthegemony.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/borges_collected-fictions.pdf (4 July 2014).

Blegvad, P. 2003. Milk. In *The Phantom Museum and Henry Wellcome's collection of medical curiosities*. H. Hawkins & D. Olsen, Eds. London : Profile. 106-141.

Foucault, M. 1970. Classifying. In *The order of things*. London: Tavistock Publications. 125 – 163.

Gioni, M. 2013. Is everything in my mind? In *The Encyclopedic Palace. 55th International Art Exhibition: La Biennale di Venezia*. Venice: Marsilio. 23 – 28.

Hawkins, H. & Olsen, D., Eds. 2003. Introduction. In *The Phantom Museum and Henry Wellcome's collection of medical curiosities*. London : Profile. VII-XIV.

Maciel, M. E. 2006. Peter Greenaway's encyclopaedism. *Theory, Culture & Society*. 23(4): 59-69.

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

Putnam, J. 2001. Open the box. In *Art and artifact: the museum as medium*. New York, N.Y. : Thames & Hudson. 8- 33.

Ralph Rugoff, 1995. Beyond belief: the museum as metaphor. In *Visual display: culture beyond appearances*. L. Cooke & P. Wollen. 68-81.

Segnit, N. 2010. Maritime. In *The flavor thesaurus: a compendium of pairings, recipes and ideas for the creative cook*. New York: Bloomsbury. 136 – 158.

Weinberger, D. 2007. Information in space, The new order of order, The geography of knowledge. In *Everything is miscellaneous : the power of the new digital disorder*. New York : Times Books. 1-23, 46-63.

Zerubavel, E. 1991. Introduction: in the beginning, Islands of meaning. In *The fine line : making distinctions in everyday life*. New York : Free Press Maxwell Macmillan International, Toronto : Maxwell Macmillan Canada. 1-20.