

what is curatorial practice?
people, theories and ideas

“Curator”

From the Latin *curatus* meaning “overseer, manager, guardian”

- Online Etymology Dictionary:
Keeper or custodian of a museum or other collection

- Merriam Webster

One who has the care or superintendence of something; especially: one in charge of a museum, zoo, or other place of exhibit

- New York Times

The word “curate,” lofty and once rarely spoken outside exhibition corridors or British parishes, has become a fashionable code word among the aesthetically minded, who seem to paste it onto any activity that involves culling and selecting.

- Hans Ulrich Obrist explains in a 2014 article in *The Guardian*

Today, curating as a profession means at least four things. It means to preserve, in the sense of safeguarding the heritage of art. It means to be the selector of new work. It means to connect to art history. And it means displaying or arranging the work. But it's more than that. Before 1800, few people went to exhibitions. Now hundreds of millions of people visit them every year. It's a mass medium and a ritual. The curator sets it up so that it becomes an extraordinary experience and not just illustrations or spatialised books.

Some curators to know

- Harald Szeemann (Switzerland, 1933-2005)
- Hans Ulrich Obrist (Switzerland born/ London based)
- Jose Roca (Colombia)
- Okwui Enwezor (Nigerian-born, Germany and USA-based)
- Mari-Carmen Ramirez (Puerto Rico-born, USA-based)
- Cuauhtémoc Medina (Mexico)
- Paola Antonelli (Italian-born, USA based)

Harold Szeeman



“Live in Your Head: When Attitudes Become Form”
at Bern Kunsthalle in 1969

Goal as an exhibition maker was to create a
museum of obsessions.

Conceptualism and Minimalism

Hans Ulrich Obrist



Serpentine Gallery, London

First exhibition at age 23 in his kitchen

Exhibitions that evolve across cities

DIY- we can all make a museum

Numerous publications and TED Talks

Jose Roca



Began as a “Nomadic curator”

He explains: “My concerns as a curator have expanded towards models for generating new audiences for art, in order to make a fundamental break in my international career. Not because I was focused on that, on sustaining my career outside of Colombia. My curator / traveler situation was due to the fact that within my country there was no other option.”

Artistic Director of FLORA ars+natura, Bogota

See: artishockrevista.com/2017/03/22/jose-roca-la-curaduria-pretexto-proponer-ideas-productivas/

Okwui Enwezor



Known for challenging the status quo of the Euro-American-centric art world.

1997 Johannesburg biennale, Documenta and the Venice Biennale, among others

“Snap Judgments: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography”

Writer for ArtForum, Frieze and Parkett and wrote *Contemporary African Art Since 1980*

Coined the term *Afro-pessimism*- the negative contemporary Western attitudes and stereotypical ideas of Africa.

Mari Carmen Ramirez



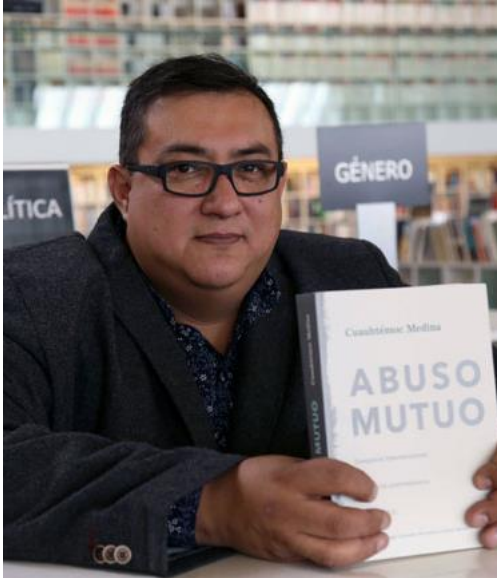
Museum of Fine Arts in Houston

Her mission is to: "to let the world know the richness and significance of Latin American and Latino art of the 20th century."

Collection, exhibitions and archive

Artists she focuses on include Lygia Clark, Carlos Cruz-Diez, Gego, Gyula Kosice, Hélio Oiticica, Xul Solar, Joaquín Torres-García, Cildo Meireles, Luis Jiménez, Daniel Joseph Martínez, and Teresa Margolles

Cuauhtémoc Medina



Chief Curator of 12th Shanghai Biennale, and
MANIFESTA9 European Biennial of Contemporary
Art

Chief Curator at the Museo Universitario Arte
Contemporáneo (MUAC)

1999 and 2013 he was in charge of the art critical
section of the *Reforma* newspaper in Mexico city,
titled “Ojo Breve”.

Harun Farocki, Raqs Media Collective, Jeremy
Deller, Andrea Fraser, Vicente Rojo, Vincent
Meessen, Jorge Macchi, Jill Magid and Hito Steyerl,
Francis Alÿs, among others.

SEE

<http://magazine.art21.org/2012/08/03/interview-with-critic-curator-and-art-historian-cuauhtemoc-medina-part-1/#.W2sZIS2ZOcY>

Paola Antonelli (MoMA- design)

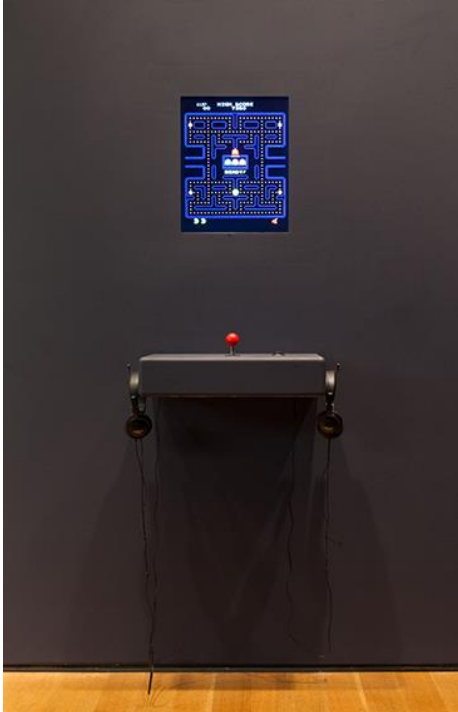


14 Video Games acquired by MOMA New York

Featured in the “Applied Design” exhibition in 2012.

PacMan, Tetris and the Sims

www.ted.com/talks/paola_antonelli_why_i_brought_pacman_to_moma



Recommended Readings

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, “Can the subaltern speak?” in *In Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics*, 1987. (book and pdf online at planetarities.web.unc.edu/files/2015/01/spivak-subaltern-speak.pdf)

Hans Ulrich Obrist, *On Curating* (book)

www.on-curating.org/issue-35-reader/thoughts-on-curatorial-practices-in-the-decolonial-turn.html#.WzqiRi2ZOcY

Hans Ulrich Obrist, *Interviews* (book)

John Berger *Ways of Seeing* (book)

Nicolas Bourriaud, *Relational Aesthetics*, Jan 1, 1998 (book)

Resources

ICI : Independent Curators International, New York

TEOR/ética Costa Rica

Beta Local Puerto Rico

IKT : European curatorial forum