

“My Museum”

Making Museum Displays / Contemporary Art & Curatorial Studies

Associate Prof. Jesse Hogan

& Research Assistant, Rinzo Yamashita

Assistant Artists:

Mamoru Hirata

Kazumasa Tanaka

Takumi Kurosawa

Keisi Sudo

Prof. Hogan was a delightful teacher with a playful side—sometimes even mimicking James Bond. Both he and Mr. Hirata showed impressive carpentry skills as well. (photo: ©k_fujii)

Creating a Personal, Free Curation Box

August 18–22, 2025

This page introduces my experience in the open lecture assignment titled “*My Museum.*”

Assignment Overview

The assignment asked each participant to curate a box based on their own theme, creating what would become “*My Museum.*”

At the end, all participants’ works were displayed together in a one-day exhibition, limited to class members only. Through this process, we were invited to **learn and experience how to enjoy today’s art.**

Note

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Outline of the Course

On the first morning, after participant self-introductions, we watched video presentations by the support staff members introducing their own works. Finally, Prof. Jesse Hogan presented his work on video. These were engaging and inspiring.

Prof. Hogan then explained the lecture theme and introduced works such as Marcel Duchamp's *Boîte-en-valise* (*Box in a Trunk*). Other artists mentioned included **Joseph Beuys**, **On Kawara**, **Yoko Ono**, **Mieko Shiomi**, **Rirkrit Tiravanija**, **Wolfgang Tillmans**, as well as the V&A Museum.

Through these examples, we learned about the role of curation in art, and saw concrete cases where artists and museums curated their own works into small boxes—insights that gave meaning to the assignment we were about to undertake.

Assignment Details

- Each participant would choose a free theme and create a box as “*My Museum.*”
- The contents could be collected from daily life, past works, or newly made pieces—completely free.
- At the start, participants brought a concept statement, a few photos, and several items they wanted to place in the box.
- Over the following two days, we gathered or created additional items and completed our curation box.
- On the final day, we held an exhibition in the classroom: arranging everyone's works, deciding table layouts and positions, and experiencing what became a true exhibition space—curated collectively, not just a rehearsal.

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My Reflections

Gratitude

When viewing contemporary art, I often wonder: *“What process gave birth to this work?”* This time, I was able to experience that process myself, which deepened my understanding of art.

The shared space—hearing others’ plans, seeing works in progress—was rich and inspiring. It was both enjoyable and challenging: the kind of “painful pleasure” that comes from being pushed to concentrate and give one’s best.

Regardless of artistic merit, simply having my *“My Museum = Art”* seen by professors, staff, and fellow participants was a precious experience.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Jesse Hogan, the support staff, and all fellow participants.

The time spent interacting with Prof. Hogan, the support staff, and fellow participants was truly enjoyable.” (photo: ©k_fujii)

K. Fujii, Editor-in-Chief and Author, Artstylic