

Outreach at Glasgow Museums - what now?

Elaine Addington, Open Museum Curator at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre

Thursday 17 December 2020, 1.00 – 2.00pm (GMT)

Attendees

UK and programme partners

Andrea Martin, The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire

Siddhant Shah, Museum Access Consultant and Founder, Access For ALL

ITP Fellows

Elizabeth Asafo-Adjei, Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (Ghana, ITP Fellow 2019)

Khadijeh Zohreh Baseri, Golestan Palace (Iran, ITP Fellow 2007)

Pankaj Protim Bordoloi, Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum (India, ITP Fellow 2018)

Ketevan Chitashvili, Money Museum of the National Bank of Georgia (Georgia, ITP Fellow 2019)

Mustafa Okan Cinemre, Anatolian Civilisations Museum (Turkey, ITP Fellow 2018)

Rasha Ali Attia Abd El-Mageid, Alexandra National Museum (Egypt, ITP Fellow 2011)

Tugba Tanyeri Erdemir, University of Pittsburgh (Turkey, ITP Fellow 2015)

Gertrude Aba Eyifa-Dzidzienyo, University of Ghana (Ghana, ITP Fellow 2009)

Ma. Yohana Rosales Frias, National Museum of the Philippines (Philippines, ITP Fellow 2018)

Benedicta Gokah, Ano Institute of Contemporary Arts (Ghana, ITP Fellow 2019)

Eileen Musundi, National Museums of Kenya (Kenya, ITP Fellow 2008, Senior Fellow 2013)

Joyee Roy, Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata (India, ITP Fellow 2011)

Dilek Karaaziz Şener, Hacettepe Art Museum (Turkey, ITP Fellow 2018)

Esther Solomon, University of Ioannina (Greece, ITP Fellow 2015)

Aprille Tijam, Ayala Museum (Philippines, ITP Fellow 2019)

Chantal Umuhoza, Institute of National Museums of Rwanda (INMR) (Rwanda, ITP Fellow 2018)

Barbara Vujanović, Meštrović Atelier (The Ivan Meštrović Museums) (Croatia, ITP Fellow 2016)

Rema Zeynalova, Azerbaijan Carpet Museum (Azerbaijan, ITP Fellow 2018)

Introduction

Glasgow Museums is the largest museum service in the UK outside of London and operates 10 venues across the city. The civic museum collection includes over one million objects and has been described as one of the finest civic collections in Northern Europe.



The Open Museum is Glasgow Museums' outreach team. For 30 years, they have taken objects from their collections out to communities across the city, so they can be enjoyed by everyone. One constant has been the social aspect; bringing people together to share stories and experiences; particularly those who might find it difficult to visit our museum venues. The aim is to ensure potentially excluded perspectives are included in their collections, programmes and research.

Content and potential learning outcomes

Elaine started the session with a brief overview of Glasgow Museums and the Open Museum. She then focused on the Open Museum's experience of, and the work they are currently doing, during the COVID-19 pandemic. She looked at how they have adapted to the new "normal", the positives outcomes and the challenges.

By the end of the session participants had an understanding of the work of the Open Museum, how they have had to adapt during the current crisis and how to use resources that you have at home for engagement work.

<https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums>

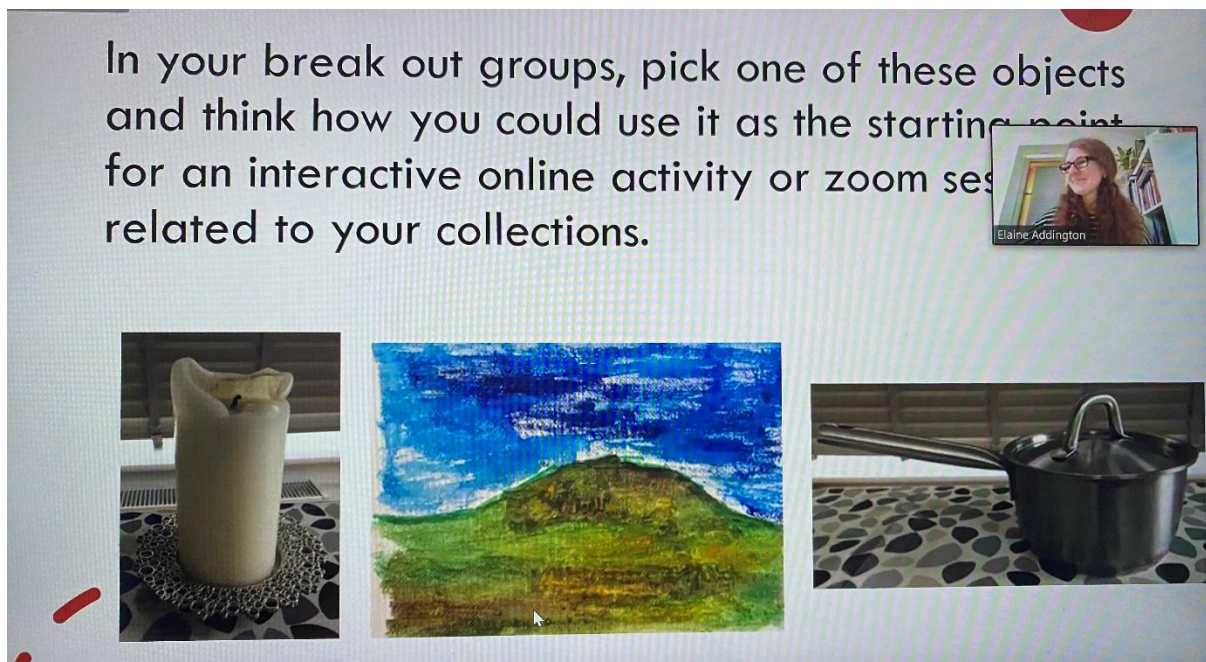
<https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/venues/the-open-museum>

<http://www.participatorymuseum.org/>

Group activity

In groups, attendees were asked to pick one of the following objects below: a candle, a painting or a kitchen pot, and think about how it could be used as the starting point for an interactive activity or zoom session related to their collections.

In your break out groups, pick one of these objects and think how you could use it as the starting point for an interactive online activity or zoom session related to your collections.

The image shows a Zoom meeting slide. At the top, there is a text prompt: "In your break out groups, pick one of these objects and think how you could use it as the starting point for an interactive online activity or zoom session related to your collections." Below the text are three images: a white candle on a silver lace doily, a landscape painting with a green hill and blue sky, and a black kitchen pot on a patterned surface. In the top right corner of the slide, there is a small video inset showing a woman with glasses, identified as Elaine Addington.

Group 1: Siddhant Shah, Rema Zeynalova, Benedicta Gokah, Chantal Umuhoza

We took the object that was the kitchen pot, and we thought as everyone is home during lockdown spending time in the kitchen, it would be a great way for people to share family recipes. So in our group we would share something from India, Ghana, Azerbaijan and Rwanda. It's a great way of talking about intangible heritage and a fun way of sharing new things.

Group 2: Andrea Martin, Mustafa Okan Cinemre, Barbara Vujanović, Ketevan Chitashvili

We selected the candle. We thought of several approaches. For example, Okan as he is an archaeologist told us he has found candles and rings in graves and how there is an interpretation of how candles and rings serve purposes in the afterlife in some cultures. Barbara thought about the French sculptor Auguste Rodin – who showed his sculptures to other artists by candlelight to highlight different features of his works. Demonstrates how things can change in different lights or different circumstances.

Group 3: Ma. Yohana Frias, Gertrude Aba Eyifa-Dzidzienyo, Esther Solomon, Rasha Ali Attia Abd El-Mageid

We looked at both the candle and the kitchen pan. We thought about having a learning activity for children on how to make candles. We would have to look at the various materials that can be used. Aimed to encourage children to be creative.

Group 4: Pankaj Protim Bordoloi, Dilek Karaaziz Şener, Elizabeth Asafo-Adjei, Aprille Tijam

We chose the candle. We were able to connect the candle to objects we have in our collections. We have lamps that can be used at home, some for religious reasons. We found we used lamps and candles for the same things.

Group 5: Joyee Roy, Tugba Tanyeri Erdemir, Khadijeh Zohreh Baseri, Eileen Musundi

We also picked the candle. We were thinking about how light and candles can be a metaphor for safety, enlightenment, warmth and the idea of 'lighting a candle in the darkness.' These were the kinds of unifying themes which connected our collections.