

Apr 25th, 4:55 PM - 5:15 PM

How to Build a Museum

Anna L. Davies
Ohio Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/studentsymposium>

Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#), [Fine Arts Commons](#), [History Commons](#),
and the [History of Art, Architecture, and Archaeology Commons](#)

Davies, Anna L., "How to Build a Museum" (2019). *Student Symposium*. 1.
https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/studentsymposium/2019/panel_1c/1

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Scholarship at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student Symposium by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.



How to Build a Museum

Anna Lenora Davies '19

Independent Study mentored by Dr. Nancy Comorau, English Department

24 April 2019



Our Idea

An interdisciplinary art exhibit with the English Department focusing on food, migration and the immigrant experience.

“In this exhibit, art about food production and consumption reveals how what we eat is not just a source of nourishment but a force that creates, dissolves, and reforms communities as immigrants both preserve and lose the taste of home.”

Our Inspiration

- ENG 228: “Re-Placing Great Britain” Travel-Learning Course, Spring 2017
 - International Museum of Slavery (Liverpool)
 - London, Sugar and Slavery exhibit at the Museum of London Docklands (London)
- Erin Fletcher, Director of the Richard M. Ross Art Museum
 - Use the Ross as an interdisciplinary education tool
 - Sagan National Colloquium 2018: “Arts and Activism”
- Independent study
 - Spring 2018



Photo: Jordyn Hollenbeck '18

Our process

- Study academic texts to understand the aesthetics of museum layout and narrative
 - How is museum design (internal, external) symbolic?
 - How interactive is it?
 - How accessible?
- Compare what we want to do to what we saw in England
 - International Museum of Slavery - pros/cons?
 - London, Sugar and Slavery/Museum of London Docklands - pros/cons?
- Use our knowledge, research and writing skills to craft an exhibit
 - Choose/acquire art
 - Captions
 - Marketing material - How do we make it intellectually accessible?





Methodology of Museums

- English majors write a lot of papers
 - Treat exhibits like an essay: A thesis and each work of art proves/strengthens your point.
- Some works are relatively easy in how they fit (style, theme, content, etc)
 - Hasan Elahi, “Altitude v2.5.1,” 2011
- Some require a bit more explanation
 - Tom Kiefer, “Satisfies!” 2007
 - Kristin Capp, “Community Dining Room, Espanola Colony, Washington,” 1996



Thesis Statement

Through using art of food, we'll show how food is a cultural force that **creates, dissolves, and re-forms** communities as immigrants both **preserve** and **lose** the taste of home.

Case Study: Hasan Elahi, "Altitude v2.5.1," 2011



Credit: elahi.umd.edu

Case Study: Tom Kiefer, “Satisfies!” 2007



Case Study: Kristin Capp, “Community Dining Room, Espanola Colony, Washington,” 1996





The Finished Product

- 32 works of art from Ross Archives and surrounding gallery collections
- Opened 18 October 2018; Closed 13 December 2018
- 544 visitors
- Three interactive sections: Pot of Poetry, Bookshelf and Beanbags and Recipe Board
- UC 160 courses, Honors Board events, Dr. Comorau's classes, etc.
- 5th grade class of Graham Elementary School in Columbus, Chamber of Commerce Reception, etc.

Reception Night - 25 October 2018



Hutterites explained



The Book Wall



Tom Jones,
"Commodity #1"



Special Thanks

- Erin Fletcher for patience, support and initial idea
- Dr. Nancy Comorau for asking me to join the project and treating me as an equal
- Pizzuti Collection, Ohio State Rare Books Archive, Ross Archive, Tom Kiefer, Hasan Elahi
- Tammy Wallace, Stephen Perakis, Ruth Ackermann of the Richard M. Ross Art Museum
- Ohio History Connection for research
- Jordyn Hollenbeck '18 for England photos
- Kit Weber '20 for exhibit event photos
- Student Symposium for allowing me to present
- Everyone who supported this project and today's presentation in any capacity