

Prompts for Mediating an Exhibition

This resource helps public-facing teams develop their own understandings of exhibitions and build confidence in talking to visitors about art. Museums & Galleries of NSW and UQ Art Museum have been working closely together to adapt Mediation strategies to the Australian arts and cultural sector.



First time exploring the exhibition:

- What do you see?

- What artworks resonate with you? Why?

- What doesn't resonate with you? Why?

- Write down five words that come to mind when seeing this exhibition.

- Write down five words that come to mind when reading the introduction panel.

- What connections can you make between these two sets of words?

- Choose an artwork:

- What questions come to mind when first seeing the artwork?

Returning to the exhibition:

- What do you see now that you didn't see the first time you explored the exhibition?

- How has this exhibition challenged your thinking or knowledge of a subject?

- Write about something new you've learnt from/or about the key exhibition concepts:

Learning and researching:

- What learning tools do you have available for your exploration of this exhibition?
 - Exhibition labels
 - Exhibition catalogue
 - Artist talks
 - Podcasts / videos
 - Education Resources
 - Other:

- What ideas or works do you want to know more about? Where will you start?

- How has your research changed the way you think about the exhibition?

- What are the key themes that you would like visitors to consider?

- How can you convert your research into a provocation (question) to prompt visitors to consider this aspect of the exhibition?

Knowledge sharing with audiences and other staff (peer-to-peer learning):

- How will you introduce yourself to visitors?

- How will you honour/use/respond to what visitors share with you within a conversation?

- What questions do you plan to ask visitors to prompt conversation?

- What have you learnt from visitors?

- What have you learnt from fellow Mediators?

- How will you share your learnings with the rest of your team?

- What tools will help support your Mediation practice?

- What tools can you develop with your team? Such as:

- Mind maps
- Space to share experiences and ideas (communal diary)
- End of shift discussions
- Other:
