

Saarema, 24-27 April 2025

A Matter of Perspective

MUSEUM THEATER EVENTS Angela Pfenninger M. A

Agenda

- Perspectives in Performances (10 min)
- Group Activity I working with Object Cards (15 min)
- Group Activity II Looking at Group Results (15 min)
- Feedback (5 min)

Perspectives in Performances

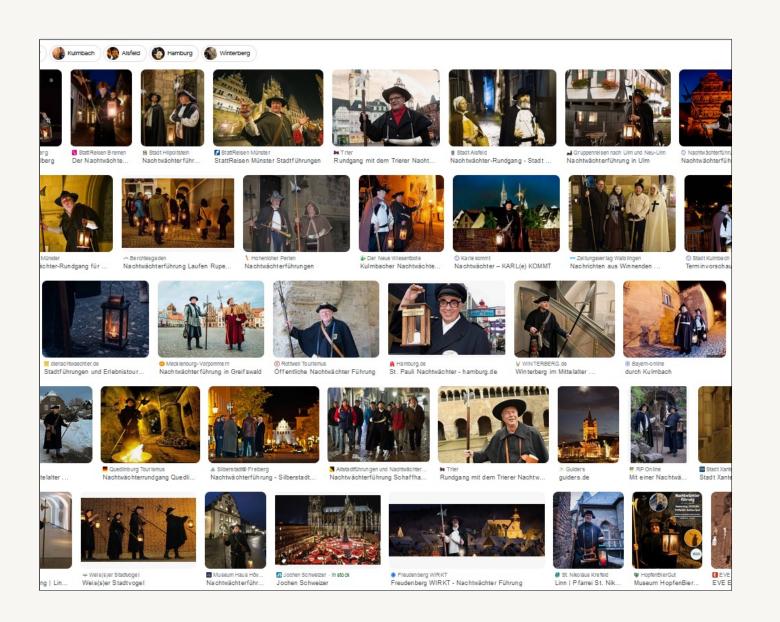
As a visitor, you may have seen interpreters as...

the night watchman, Lord, kitchen maid, craftsman.

In crowded exhibitions, where a consistent first-person performance is hard to maintain, we may meet someone playing a modern janitor or cleaner.

This repertoire can offer an engaging experience.

But, these familiar roles are not the only options.











A Long History

Any object's history covers a time span. Your choice of a narrative perspective can **highlight any point in time**.

- The creation of the object
- Its discovery by archeologists
- Its refurbishment
- A theft...



A Long History

- The object's provenance history
- Putting the object to wrong or different uses
- Phases of oblivion and remembrance
- Mysteries surrounding the object
- (wrong) assumptions about the object

Format: Panel Discussion

People throughout history used the same Castle and now engage in a fictional dialogue across eras about...

- Whose use of the space is the most legitimate?
- What does the usage of the space say about society or the spirit of the age?



Format: One Hero, Two Ages

Did your protagonist have an interesting life? If yes, you can contrast their younger self and their older self.

- Did their hopes and wishes come true?
- Did their worldview change over the years, and how?
- How did they cope with change or progress?



Format: Non-Human Voices

Does it alyways have to be a human who talks about the past to visitors?

How about...

- The ghost in the machine (as in photo)
- An animal
- A wet specimen
- A piece of furniture



Group Activity I (15 min)

Use the Object Card to explore your object's story:

- 1. WHO is telling the story?
- One individual object or a cluster of them
- 2. WHAT could the object have experienced?
- During its creation, when it was found by archeologists, refurbished, or stolen.
- How do we imagine it interacts with other objects?
- 3. HOW does the object feel?
- our "Bonus Emotion" on the card if you can insert it: pride, shame, anger, fear, boredom, surprise...
- 3. WHAT do you want the visitor to understand?
- A surprising truth about the object, a certain fact about life and society in the past?

Use the prompts on the card to develop a mini monologue or dialogue amongst your group

Group Activity II (15 min)

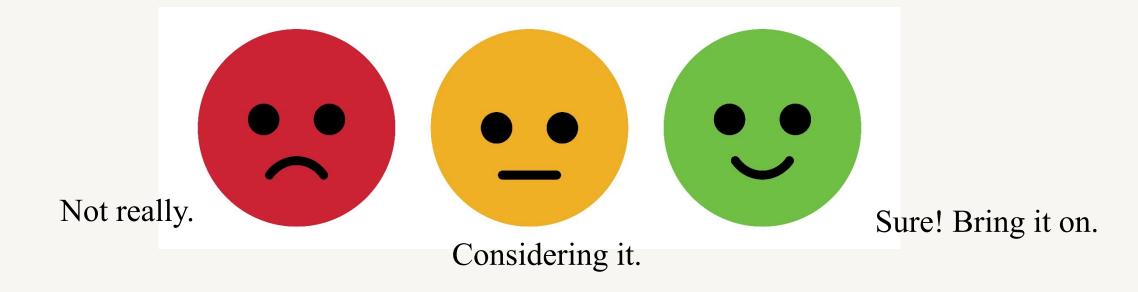
- Present your own group's mini monologue or dialogue to the other groups 1-2 mins material are OK.
- Meet the other objects at a fun panel discussion.
- The panel topic is: "Which object is the most interesting to a modern visitor, and why?"
- Have fun making your point, and telling your story.
- If you can, insert the bonus emotion, to give our panel even more character!

What do you make of it?

...as the objects turn silent again, and all our protagonists have their correct age & place:

- Do you think we managed to communicate some knowledge about history?
- Did we manage to make an historical era a bit more tangible?
- Did you find the experience entertaining?

Can you imagine trying one of the things we did or saw today?













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