Exploring The Intersection Of Constructivist Museums And Third Place Theory In Hybrid Co-Curation

Key Theories

Constructivist Museum (Hein, 1998)
Definition:
- A museum that aligns with the principles of constructivist learning.
- Focuses on active, experiential learning and personal exploration.

Key Characteristics:
- Interactive Exhibits: Engage visitors through hands-on activities.
- Personalized Experience: Adapts to various learning styles and levels.
- Problem-Solving: Promotes critical thinking and creative solutions.

Third Place Theory (Oldenburg, 1997)
- Focuses on the significance of informal social spaces beyond home (first place) and work (second place).

Definitions:
- A relaxed, neutral space for social interaction and community bonding.
- Often characterized by its welcoming and inclusive nature.

Key Characteristics:
Neutral ground; Leveler (a leveling place); Conversation is the main activity;
Accessibility and accommodation; The regulars; A low profile; The mood is playful; A home away from home

Conceptual Framework of this study

About The Art of Bonding

“The Art of Bonding” is co-curated by Annie Booth, Hu Bao, Hu Bei, Iván Peñafiel, Murphy Movsovitz, Maya Montaner, and Zida Wang. The Art of Bonding featured five art pieces: How to Do Nothing, Dualing Dialogue, Twindividual Manifesto, 1.2 Meters, and Gathered Light. It was displayed from Nov 2 to Dec 9, 2024, at Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts.

“The Art of Bonding" delves into the complexity of human connection; from person-to-person to person-to-nature, this show invites you to reflect on the varied bonds of humanity. Based on the multidisciplinary art of twin sisters Hu Bao and Hu Bei, this exhibition celebrates the special bond between the twins, highlighting the importance and duality of individuality and connection. Through Bao and Bei's work, we uncover the unique perspective of twin sisters while simultaneously speaking to a broader theme of human interconnectedness.

At the core of this exhibition, Hu Bao and Hu Bei's work centers their experiences growing up as twins and expands to a larger discourse surrounding the human bonds we all make.

Visitor Participation with The Art of Bonding: Participatory Third Place Construction

Your contribution as a visitor is massively significant. We not only encourage you to appreciate the work of Hu Bao and Hu Bei, but we also invite you to consider your own personal bonds and connections. There are multiple interactive elements that we encourage you to engage in - your contributions are deeply valued and will help you better understand the artwork and help us understand how you connect with “The Art of Bonding.”

We had Sticky Notes, Postcard Exchange, and Online Survey for visitors to engage with.

Findings:
1. 213 Sticky Notes and 69 Postcards collected from visitors
2. The online platform collected 32 participants’ comments.
3. Co-curators also experienced their role development in a hybrid third place.

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Featured Artists: Bao Hu, Bei Hu