



Beyond Hands-on: Tapping the Non-touch Senses in Exhibitions

NEMA 2020

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Land Acknowledgment

ultimately knowing the why behind anything we do gives our actions power



Agenda

- Orientation
- Warm Up: Lil' Buck with Icons of American Art
- Game: Strike a Pose & Guess that Emotion
- Online Chat: Why do museums want us to “feel”?
- Show & Tell (and Google Sheet for Examples)
- Break Out: Discussion Challenges and DEAI Lenses
- Share Out (and add to Google Sheet)

Lil Buck with Icons of Modern Art

<https://youtu.be/IMxEGR26NOo>

Notice the connections between...

- The body and the space
- The body and the use of the limited physical environment
- The body movements and the “art”





Strike a Pose

View it.

Feel free to vogue.

Embody it.

Mimic the pose/expression to the best of your ability.

Name it.

Share the emotion/reaction in the chat!



"Head of a Laughing Man" by Totonac is licensed under [CC BY 3.0](#).
Totonac. *Head of a Laughing Man*, ca. 600-700. Ceramic, 6 x 6 3/4 x 4
1/4 in. (15.2 x 17.1 x 10.8 cm). Brooklyn Museum, Gift of Princess
Gourielli (Mme Helena Rubinstein), 53.149.2. Creative Commons-BY
(Photo: Brooklyn Museum, 53.149.2_PS9.jpg)



"Emma - o, King and Judge of Hell" is licensed under [CC BY 3.0](#).
Emma - o, King and Judge of Hell, 16th century. Wood with gesso and traces of polychrome and inlaid glass eyes., 19 x 18 1/4 x 13 1/4 in. (48.3 x 46.4 cm). Brooklyn Museum, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. H. George Mann, 79.277. Creative Commons-BY (Photo: Brooklyn Museum, 79.277_front_PS6.jpg).



The dejection that is produced by Sadness makes the eye-brows rise towards the middle of the forehead more than towards the cheeks; the eye-ball appears full of perturbation; the white of the eye is yellow; the eye-lids are drawn down & a little swelled; all about the eyes is livid; the nostrills are drawn downward; the mouth is half open & the corners are drawn down; the head carelessly leaning on one of the shoulders; the hair is all a tremor; the lips pale.

"Sadness (from 'Heads Representing the Various Passions of the Soul; as they are Expressed in the Human Countenance: Drawn by that Great Master Monsieur Le Brun')" by Anonymous, British, 18th century is marked with [CC0 1.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).
Metropolitan Museum of Art



"Small statue of a female exercising (statues)" is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#).

Small statue of a female exercising, wearing a bikini, stands on wooden stand, Roman, 150-250.



"Photograph - Kodak
Australasia Pty Ltd,
Sharley Meredith &
Joy Shattock in
Analytical Laboratory,
Research Dept, circa
1950" is marked with
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Emil Fuchs (American, born Austria, 1866-1929). *Joy of Life*. Bronze with stone base, 12 3/8 x 10 3/4 x 5 3/8 in. (31.4 x 27.3 x 13.7 cm). Brooklyn Museum, Gift of the Estate of Emil Fuchs, 32.2092.8. Creative Commons-BY (Photo: Brooklyn Museum, 32.2092.8_bw.jpg)



M. Martinet, Paris

M. Destouches, Paris

— Eh bien, mon cher, vous avez perdu, vous qui aviez affirmé à votre client que vous gagneriez
 — Eh bien oui, en plaidant sa cause j'ai gagné... cinq cents francs.

"Well my friend, it seems you have lost..., from 'Parisian sketches,' published in Le Charivari, September 14, 1864" by Honoré Daumier is marked with [CC0 1.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

- Well my friend, it seems you have lost.... didn't you tell your client that you would win?
- Quite so, by defending his cause I have gained 500 Francs.

Metropolitan Museum of Art

**Why do
museums
want
people to
“feel”?**



Show and Tell





Smell & Taste

Memory: Traveling exhibit by the Exploratorium



Chicago Scent Map, Sensing Chicago
@ Chicago History Museum

Sound



<https://soundcloud.com/user-526944181/la-selva-ainforest-excerpt-from-global-soundscapes-show>



Listening/ Hearing



Whispering Dishes
@ Market Street Living Innovation Zone, San Francisco
By Studio for Public Spaces, Exploratorium



Skin Sensing



Foggy Bowls, Canopy Park
@ Jewel Changi Airport
By Studio for Public Spaces, Exploratorium



Dialogue in the Dark Exhibition
@ multiple locations
By Dialogue in the Dark

Gravity Room, the Attic gallery
@ Children's Museum of Pittsburgh



Vestibular



Endlessly Repeating Twentieth Century Modernism, by
Josiah McElheny
@ MfA, Boston



Full Body Gross Motor



Mazes and Brain Games
traveling exhibit By Minotaur Mazes



Full Body (Gross Motor)



DinoTracks;
traveling exhibit by
Environmental Exhibits Collaborative



Holy Stoning interactive
All Hands on Deck: A Sailor's Life in 1812
@ USS Constitution Museum

Embodiment



Bird Walk
@ the Museum of Science, Boston



STARS project
By Flo Angorro & Benjamin Jee

Mashantucket Pequot
Museum & Research Center



Multi-Sensory Experience



Emotion and Empathy

Middle Ground (Exploratorium)



Operation Underground Railroad Rescue

Derek Hough, choreographer

<https://youtu.be/8NRQkpAJjGE>

Notice the connections between...

- Storytelling and body movement
- Visual art and imagery with storytelling
- Audio emotion



Next: Zoom Breakouts

Here's the Plan:

Review the Brainstorm Challenges.

Shift to Zoom.

Break into Zoom groups.

Take one minute on your own to review the Brainstorm Challenge Images and Questions.

Within your Zoom breakout group, request a notetaker.

Then as a group, discuss and answer the four questions.

We will have XXX number of minutes in our breakout groups.

Come back together in Zoom to share out as a whole!

Overall Session Slides:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/12tMmyt9MEg0GY9sqGq5se3peHxJaVDR6pSznr2tYwNA/edit#slide=id.g9798c2f1f8_0_3

Brainstorming Breakout Images:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1uLrXLi4shqxUo9o259llglQISMpf8r4G9f2n8z2TNyc/edit#slide=id.ga99b8ebfe0_0_20

Brainstorming Challenge 1:

In an exhibit exploring the subjects pictured below, what interactives or exhibit components can you think of that tap different senses?

(Suggestion: Before discussing, grab a piece of paper and take 2 minutes to jot down your ideas individually.)

- **Sight**
- **Hearing**
- **Smell**
- **Taste**
- **Touch**
- **Vestibular (Movement)**
- **Proprioception (Body Position)**
- **Emotion & Empathy**





Bhekezakhe, Parktown

2016

Zanele Muholi

For years, Zanele Muholi* directed her camera towards fellow members of the black lesbian and trans community in South Africa.

Lately, however, self-portraiture has taken on new prominence in the artist's work.

Brainstorming Challenge 2:

**Now go back through your ideas
and evaluate them from a DEAI lens.**

Who might each experience include/exclude?

Be pleasant/harmful to?

How might you address any issues?

Brainstorming Challenge 3:

If the exhibit needs to go virtual,
how could you adapt these experiences?

Helpers Challenge:

Do you have an exhibit you are planning?

Now is your chance to tap the minds
in the room for ideas!