



British Art Network Newsletter Winter 2021 to 2022

Easy read
booklet

Emerging Curators Group Takeover

Who gets to be a curator?



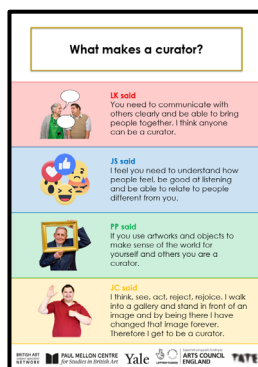
What this booklet is about



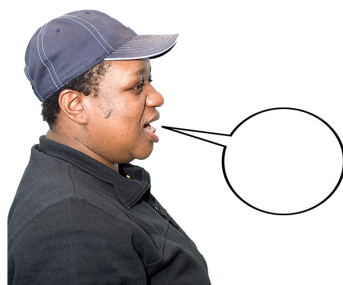
5 **curators** asked themselves some questions. This booklet tells you their answers.



A **curator** is someone that looks after and works on museum collections, or works with artists and others to create exhibitions.



The 5 curators answering questions in this booklet are **Siobhan McLaughlin**, **Jess Starns**, **Prerona Prasad**, **Lisa Kennedy** and **Janet Couloute**.



The answers in this booklet are shortened Easy Read versions of what the curators told us.

Who gets to be a curator?



Siobhan said

It should be anyone who wants to, is interested and works hard, but becoming a curator can feel inaccessible.

Do you have skills or experiences that help your curating?



Jess said

I studied Inclusive Arts Practice, am an artist and work with young people. I don't think of myself as a curator because I feel some of the role is inaccessible to me.



Siobhan said

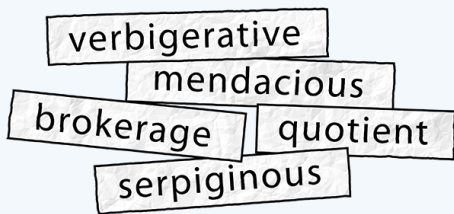
I'm a painter with no professional curating experience. I curate as an artist and try to bring inaccessible private collections to the public.



Prerona said

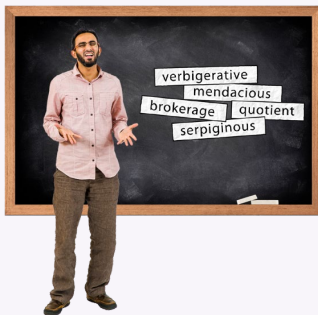
I have always visited museums but after meeting a curator I began to understand how they work. I became a curator by accident.

Is academic or specialist language needed for curating?



Jess said

Museums and arts organisations like using big words but you don't need to do this to be a curator. I think its better to use everyday words.



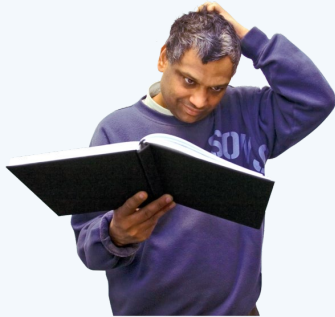
Siobhan said

Institutional gatekeepers want people to have curating degrees and use big words, but being a curator is about showing interesting stories and ideas.



Institutional gatekeepers are people who might stop someone becoming a curator because they aren't a certain type of person.

Have you ever been told or felt you can't be a curator?



Jess said

I have never been told I can't be a curator, but I do feel like I can't be a proper curator because there are too many big words.



Lisa said

Anyone should be able to be a curator but we know it is very tricky to get into curation.



Siobhan said

As a young woman working in Glasgow it is very easy to be underestimated by people who have been curating for a long time or always focus on London.



Prerona said

I have done a lot of curating but I did not call myself a curator until recently. Maybe because I studied something different and had never met another curator like me.

What makes a curator?



Lisa said

You need to communicate with others clearly and be able to bring people together. I think anyone can be a curator.



Jess said

I think you need to be good at listening and be able to understand and connect with people who are different from you.



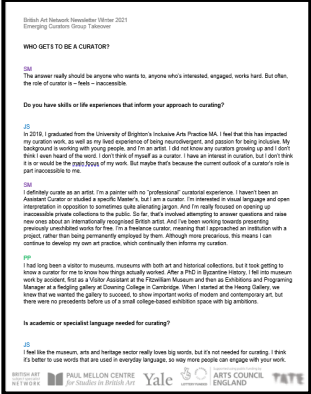
Prerona said

If you use artworks and objects to make sense of the world for yourself and others you are a curator.



Janet said

I think, see, act, reject, rejoice. I walk into a gallery and stand in front of an image and this changes the image forever. This means I can be a curator.



Thank you to A2i for the words www.a2i.co.uk (reference 34475)

The full version of this document is called **Who gets to be a curator?**