

SELF-DIRECTED WORKSHOP GUIDE

THE PEDAGOGICAL IMPULSE

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THE MUSEUM OF CARE

THEMES

Care
Activism

ENGAGING WITH

Activist Love Letters
by Syrus Marcus Ware
Museum Without Entrance by
Rodrigo Hernández-Gómez

PARTICIPANTS

3 - 15

ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

This two-part workshop encourages critical conversations around individual and collective actions of care, and their implications for the production and transformation of the communities we inhabit or wish to create.

The Museum of Care is intended to open up a time/space that allows participants to draw connections between themselves and the artifacts of self-care. Using artifacts sourced during the workshop participants will create a collective Museum of Care.

The self-guided workshops explore the *Instant Class Kit*, a portable curriculum guide and pop-up exhibition. The kit brings together contemporary curriculum materials in the form of artist multiples such as zines, scores, games, newspapers and other sensory objects. The items in the kit strive to deliver a curriculum based on the values of critical democratic pedagogy, anti-racist and anti-colonial logics, and social justice. The self-guided workshops explore and activate some of the kit contents.

PART 1 - ACTIVIST LOVE LETTERS

Participants will discuss the impact activists make in their communities and the need to care for their survival. Participants will write to an activist whose work they find valuable and engage in a letter-writing project.

PART 2 - MUSEUM WITHOUT ENTRANCE

Participants will discuss the implications of caring for oneself as a political and collective practice. Participants will create a collective Museum of Care by contributing an object or an artifact that represents a practice of self-care. This artifact can be created or can be personal objects found in ones' home or immediate surroundings. Examples include propositions for actions, poems, books, art, photographs, mementos, clothes, etc. Through digital contributions, participants share and exchange stories and techniques of caring for oneself and for one's community.

ACTIVITIES

PART 1: ACTIVIST LOVE LETTERS

- Introduction to the artist Syrus Marcus Ware (SMW) and the project *Activist Love Letters*.
- Hold a conversation on individual and collective care and activism. You can use the following questions:
 - “What is our individual role in sustaining a movement and supporting our communities?” (Syrus Marcus Ware)
 - Why and how can we care for activist sustainability and survival?
- Following Ware’s provocation “if you could reach out to one person who moves you through what they do, who would it be? What would you say?” Participants select an activist from the *Activist Love Letters* list. As an option, participants can research and select a living activist whose work inspires them and they wish to write to.
- Participants write a letter to their chosen activist. You can prompt them to think about words of support and encouragement, rage and fear, caution and inspiration alike.
- On a volunteer basis, participants can choose to read their letter or share who they selected and why.

PART 2: MUSEUM OF CARE

- Introduction to the artist Rodrigo Hernández-Gómez and the project *Museum Without Entrance*.
- Continue the conversation on individual and collective care and activism. You can use the following questions:
 - What does it mean for individuals and groups to feel and provide care, survive, and even dare to thrive in environments that challenge their very existence?
 - How is self-care necessary for collective survival?
- Each participant will create or find two artifacts that represent self-care from their home or immediate surroundings. For their presentation, participants photograph their artifacts and submit it to the organizer. It is recommended that the photograph to be taken against a plain background.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

The readings that are not open sourced can be sent to you. If you are interested please contact us [HERE](#).

- [Hi'ilei Julia Kawehipuaakahaopulani Hobart, Tamara Kneese. \(2020\) Radical Care: Survival Strategies for Uncertain Times. Social Text; 38 \(1 \(142\)\): 1-16.](#)
- Chrystos. (1981) Ceremony for completing a poetry reading in "This bridge called my back". Ed. Moraga, C Anzaldúa, G. 191.

MATERIALS

- You can find the artists' bios [HERE](#) and the projects' descriptions [HERE](#)
- For this workshop you will need:
 - Computer with internet access
 - Pen and papers
 - Envelopes (optional)
 - Device for digital photography