Green Curation
Plants as a Vehicle for Curation

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What is Green Curation?

Green Curation is the incorporation of green practices into curatorial design. The incorporation of plants as an aesthetic, psychological, and experiential boost to an exhibit or installation.
Benefits of Green Curation

- Aesthetic
- Exhibition Variety
- Mental Health / Well-being
- Eco-friendly Practices
- Possible Community opportunities
- Engagement with new Audiences
Dangers, Risks & Issues

- Dirt & Pests
- Accidents & Broken Pots
- Light Intensity - 250-1000 Fc
- Humidity Fluctuations - 50%
- Maintenance & Costs
- Gallery Size Limitations
- Potentially Uneven Lighting
Popular Types of Curation

Styles:
- White Cube
- Salon Style
- Contemporary

Secondary:
- Monographic
- Accent Walls
- Ahistorical
White Cube is the most common curatorial style currently used. This is typically white walls, white frames, and simple, sterile environments.

This is commonly used in most museums, such as the Weatherspoon. It is a versatile curatorial space that works with anything, and focuses on removing any distractions from the art.
Salon Style

Salon Style is an older style of curation. It has crowded, arrays of artworks, placed with installation and decorations throughout. Typically ahistorical.

This is a more uncommon method, appearing in places like the Barnes Foundation or Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. It creates an overwhelming collective whole, but doesn’t always give individual pieces room to breathe.
Contemporary

This style is becoming more common place, particularly in contemporary museums. It typically features multiple smaller galleries, with colored accent walls.

This is commonly used in a number museums, such as the NCMA or The Gregg. It aims to enhance the aesthetic and artistic experience by emphasizing certain colors, having the viewer move through multiple smaller areas.
Solutions

Plant Types
● Air Plants & Succulents
● Hydroponic Plants
● Leca Balls

Enclosures:
● Terrariums
● Humidifiers
● Infinity Box - *Yayoi Kusama*

*Plus good lighting and exhibition design, of course*
Infinity Boxes/Terrariums

Self contained boxes, containing 3-4 mirrored panels and a single, powerful bulb which generates 300-500 foot candles of light, which would only spill outwards directly in front of the installation.

Higher initial cost, but with maximum variety, safety, and reusability. Creates a larger ‘space’ to observe in.

These are inspired by the artist Yayoi Kusama’s Infinity Rooms.
Light Decay

Light naturally weakens over a distance, once a distance from an object to a light source \((X)\) doubles, the amount of light, in this case, footcandles \((Fc)\), is reduced by 75%.

The equation \(2x = \frac{1}{4}Fc\) can be used according to this information.

Source: [https://www.cybercollege.com/distancedrop.htm](https://www.cybercollege.com/distancedrop.htm)
Footcandles are the level of light intensity 1 foot away from the light source. This allows for hypothetical danger zones for specific types of artworks.

In this example, a 20’x20’ gallery would not be able to simply add plants safely, due to space. This illustrates how larger museums would have an easier time accommodating green curation in its simplest form.

Green Curation: Plants as a Vehicle for Curation.

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Explore the possibilities of plant based curation and possible solutions to allow for safe and sustainable practice within different common sectors of exhibition spaces, including experimental exhibition spaces, non-collecting contemporary institutions, as well as ADA accredited museums.

Learn about other curatorial styles, and how green curation may offer distinct advantages and possibilities that enhance exhibitions in a way that others do not. Green curation may open up doorways into exhibitions designed around community mental health, and positive environments.

Timothy C Boardman
Green Curation

This is just a blurb to use as an example for a wall space curatorial description. This project is created by Timothy C Boardman for the Senior Honors Project and Artist in Residence at UNCG, 2021.
Future Implementations