

Leveraging Permanent Collection Objects for Collaboration and Change

Presented by the Chazen Museum of Art and MASK Consortium

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What is *re:mancipation*?



WARNING

This film includes images of police violence against Black bodies.
We acknowledge that it may be difficult to engage with this content.
We also encourage you to care for your safety and well-being.

How Did *re:mancipation* Begin?



- ★ At the Chazen, addressing the *Emancipation Group* sculpture had been in discussion for years
- ★ For MASK, they approached the project without any preconceived context



Slide 4

LCG0 Instead of (or in addition to) logos on every page, do we want to include a QR code? Could be to remancipation landing page, or to sub pages addressing each of the slide topics

LINDSAY C GRINSTEAD, 2024-03-27T17:48:04.778

AGO 0 I like the idea of re-iterating the QR code, or sending to different pages, so people don't feel like "I missed it" in an earlier slide.

Amy Gilman, 2024-04-05T16:01:14.035

First Visit: Building Trust & Pushing Boundaries



- ★ Redefining the concept of a singular artist response to the object
- ★ Unprecedented access to multiple spaces and objects
- ★ Collaborative curatorial process with staff at all levels
- ★ Establishing trust, despite uncertainty

*Object remained the central focus, surrounded by a broader purpose: **process, institutional change, innovation, and access***

Second Visit: Broadening Scope



- ★ Shifting focus from counter monument to collective response
- ★ Even broader access to spaces and objects
- ★ Increasing pressure and risk
- ★ Trusting one another through the uncertainty



Bringing It All Together: Exhibition Planning



- ★ Started without a checklist!
- ★ Collaborative curatorial process continued throughout exhibition planning and relied heavily on trusting one another
- ★ Layout reflected key elements of the process:
 - ★ Acknowledging historical context
 - ★ Deep object analysis
 - ★ Collective dialogue and experience
 - ★ Artist response



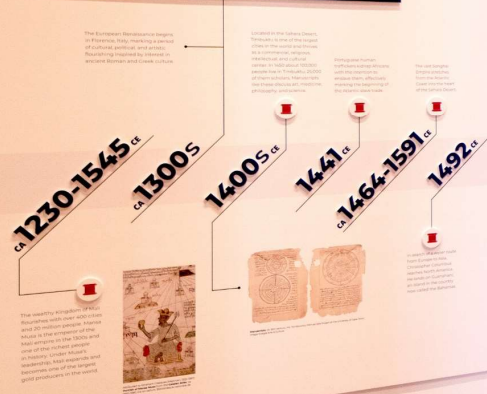
What was the Outcome?



ca 1300s



Michelangelo's *Dusk and Dawn* (1531) are prime examples of Renaissance sculpture. The sculptures adorn the tomb of Lorenzo de' Medici and were inspired by the river gods of antiquity. They in turn inspired other artists to make copies, including the pair flanking the entrance to this exhibition by Massimiliano Soldani Benzi.



Human life began on the African continent.

From the Great Pyramids of Egypt to the Mali Empire in West Africa, rich and diverse cultures flourished.

Across the continent, civilizations developed advanced political and social structures, in this diverse and vibrant land, close and communities based on longstanding traditions and nurtured distinct cultural customs.



A Vibrant Tradition

West African cultures have a rich tradition of storytelling. Each village had a griot, or storyteller, who passed down the community's shared knowledge. Griots memorized hundreds of stories and songs and captivated audiences with the histories of their people. Spoken word also formed the basis of traditional religions in these cultures.

Passed from generation to generation, songs, dances, music, and folklore formed the backbone of each community's cultural legacy.

the maafa



ca 1602

The transatlantic slave trade began to take hold as European powers sought to build profitable colonies in the Americas. They needed a steady supply of labor, and the transatlantic slave trade provided a solution. Millions of people were kidnapped from their homes and forced to work on plantations and in mines across the Americas.



1602

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1865

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Long-term Impact

What effect did *re:mancipation* have on the institution?

- ★ More accepting of unconventional processes
- ★ Reinvigorated our mission as a teaching museum
- ★ Permanent collection reinstallation will center objects instead of themes, timelines, or geographical areas



Slide 15

AG0

Katherine - do you want 1-2 slides for your section?

Amy Gilman, 2024-04-05T16:04:18.373

KA0 0

We talked about me having one example that we might show as a teaser, so I think adding a second slide for a visual of some sort - either of an object we're going to focus on or a grouping of objects to suggest the links we're making, or an early layout (iffy). Does the powerpoint need to be submitted early? Lindsay, I want to think about the wording of this slide a little more - the first two points also influence the thinking around the PCR, so I'm not sure it makes sense to specify the PCR in the third, but can't think of a better way to craft the language right now.

Katherine Alcauskas, 2024-04-12T21:20:18.778



AAM Workshop

you're invited



Trust the Process: Working with Others to Reimagine Object Interpretation

Sunday, May 19

10:20 – 11:50 a.m.

Room 314/315

Join Chazen staff, Mark Hines, and Sanford Biggers as we share lessons learned and guidance for other organizations wanting to embark on similar endeavors.

Was the Risk Worth It?



Creating space to talk



Creating space to talk

The New York Times

An Exhibition Proposes Alternatives to Removing Contentious Statues

The Chazen Museum of Art in Wisconsin is presenting “re:mancipation,” a multifaceted effort to add context to a 130-year-old sculpture.

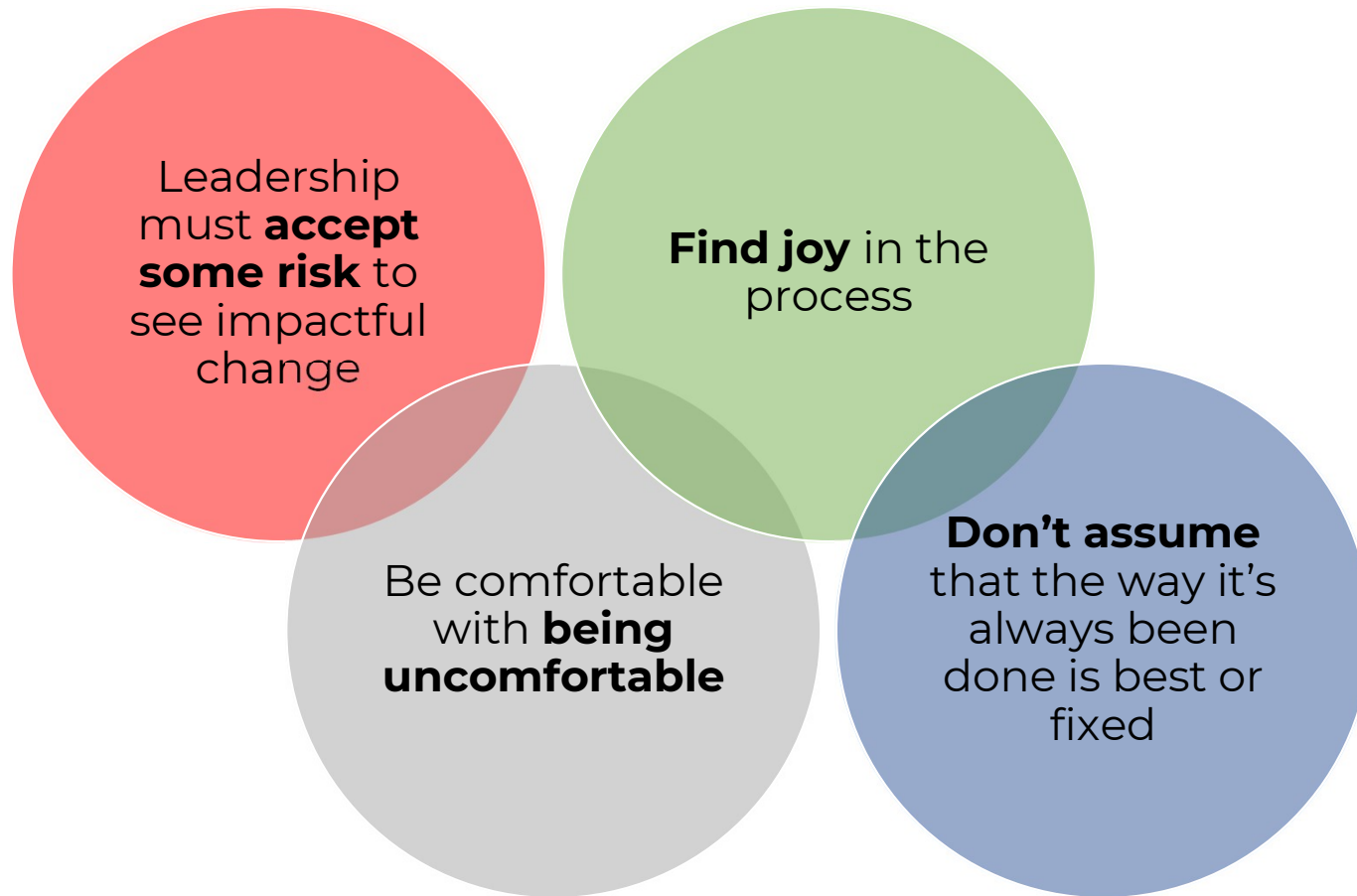
HYPERALLERGIC

Art

Anatomy of a Disputed Emancipation Monument

The Chazen Museum of Art in Wisconsin didn’t quite know what to do with a controversial emancipation statue of Abraham Lincoln in its collection until Sanford Biggers stepped in with an idea.

Key Takeaways



re:mancipation Documentary Screening

you're invited



Saturday, May 18
5 – 8 p.m.

Creative Alliance
3134 Eastern Ave
Baltimore



