First Aid For Art Mediation Formats

The process of designing an art mediation format should be a shared one. Just as art mediation itself is a process of dialogue, the design of an art mediation format should also be a process involving all the art mediators who will work with the format. Ready-made formats can trigger resistance, cause indifference and create distance on the side of the mediators executing them. Involving the team as a whole from the very beginning of the design process helps identification and stimulates a comprehensive understanding of the developed project. However, any mediation format is only a basic structure upon which the mediation must move. More fundamental is the freedom of the visitors to make a choice, to take into account personal and external conditions, and to follow one’s own intuition. The design of a mediation sequence is a creative process – every single interaction with the public is creative and to a certain extent, an intuitive performance.

On the following pages, you will find a first aid kit for designing art mediation formats. The kit consists of a set of 48 ready-made cards each with a strategy to consider, or reject, and a number of empty cards to personalise your set.

WHEN TO USE THE FIRST AID CARDS
— If you have been debating for a long time without results.
— If time runs short, because you should have bought the material for the workshop a long time ago or you have to produce a written text right now.
— When you are stuck or if group dynamics have become uncomfortable.

SOME IDEAS FOR HOW THE CARDS CAN BE USED
— Relate the message on the card to your working process of designing a mediation format.
— Relate the message on the card to the mediation format you are already designing.
— Put the cards face down on the table - anyone in need of inspiration take a card.
— Everybody takes a card. While working on the design, be especially aware of the message of your card.
CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF COMMUNICATION

TAKE YOUR FIRST IDEA SERIOUSLY

CREATE A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE

SENSE THE NEEDS OF THE BODY

BELIEVE IN CRAZY IDEAS

CONSIDER THE NEEDS OF YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE

PAY ATTENTION TO AUDIBLE SIGNALS

DO SOMETHING HANDS-ON

FOLLOW SECRET DESIRES
GO MORE INTO DETAIL
BE MORE POETIC
USE CLICHÉS

CHANGE THE FOCUS
STIMULATE ACTION
CREATE A BIGGER PICTURE

SUPPORT EACH OTHER
BE MYSTERIOUS
CHANGE THE METAPHOR
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Be ruthlessly eclectic</th>
<th>Think in extremes</th>
<th>Respect space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Become sensuous</td>
<td>Sort something out</td>
<td>Start over again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do what is foreign to you</td>
<td>Allow things to mature</td>
<td>Change the location</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RELOCATE THE ROUTE

PRETEND TO BE FREE

IT’S SIMPLER THAN YOU THINK

TRY UNUSUAL COMBINATIONS

SWITCH GENDER ROLES

SLOW DOWN AND BE CURIOUS

ASK FOR HELP

BE FRIENDLY

BE AWARE OF SOCIAL STRATA
CHANGE THE FORMAT

GIVE CLEAR AND PRECISE MESSAGES

PAY SPECIAL REGARD TO THE START AND THE END