



# A Brief History of Curating: By Hans Ulrich Obrist

*Hans Ulrich Obrist , Lucy R. Lippard (Editor)*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

## A Brief History of Curating: By Hans Ulrich Obrist

*Hans Ulrich Obrist , Lucy R. Lippard (Editor)*

**A Brief History of Curating: By Hans Ulrich Obrist** Hans Ulrich Obrist , Lucy R. Lippard (Editor)  
Part of JRP|Ringer's innovative "Documents" series, published with Les Presses du Reel and dedicated to critical writings, this publication comprises a unique collection of interviews by Hans Ulrich Obrist mapping the development of the curatorial field--from early independent curators in the 1960s and 70s and the experimental institutional programs developed in Europe and the U.S. through the inception of Documenta and the various biennales and fairs--with pioneering curators Anne D'Harnoncourt, Werner Hoffman, Jean Leering, Franz Meyer, Seth Siegelaub, Walter Zanini, Johannes Cladders, Lucy Lippard, Walter Hopps, Pontus Hulten and Harald Szeemann. Speaking of Szeemann on the occasion of this legendary curator's death in 2005, critic Aaron Schuster summed up, "the image we have of the curator today: the curator-as-artist, a roaming, freelance designer of exhibitions, or in his own witty formulation, a 'spiritual guest worker'... If artists since Marcel Duchamp have affirmed selection and arrangement as legitimate artistic strategies, was it not simply a matter of time before curatorial practice--itself defined by selection and arrangement--would come to be seen as an art that operates on the field of art itself?"

### A Brief History of Curating: By Hans Ulrich Obrist Details

Date : Published October 1st 2008 by JRP Ringier  
ISBN : 9783905829556  
Author : Hans Ulrich Obrist , Lucy R. Lippard (Editor)  
Format : Paperback 200 pages  
Genre : Art

 [Download A Brief History of Curating: By Hans Ulrich Obrist ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Brief History of Curating: By Hans Ulrich Obrist ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online A Brief History of Curating: By Hans Ulrich Obrist Hans Ulrich Obrist , Lucy R. Lippard (Editor)**

---



Recognized names such as Polten Hülten really stand out for me personally although the Lucy Lippard and Seth Siegelub interviews are definitely the most engaging since they propose alternative sites for curating besides the museum. Hans Ulrich Obrist is one of my favorite interviewers since he always seems to know the complete background information of all his interviewees giving the reader a full examination of the social and historical viewpoint of each person.

---

### **Dmitry Khvatov says**

Good read.

---

### **katie says**

so excited to start this!

---

### **Nina says**

Excellent interviews, but if you are not familiar with the field you might be spending more time researching this text rather than actually reading the book.

---

### **Tosh says**

One time in my life I thought it was only the artist that matters. But alas, it is very much like the music world. There is the singer/artist, then there are the arrangers/producers. If you map it out there is the artist, the curator, and then the audience for that art. Or perhaps the curator is a translator? Nevertheless this is a fascinating collection of interviews done by curator/writer Hans Ulrich Obrist on really cutting edge curators from the 60's, 70's era and upwards.

It is good he started with Walter Hopps, because I think he's the curator with the most strongest identity of sorts, in that he's a legend (rightfully so) and in many ways an artist himself. The way he looks at exhibitions is more of an aesthetic thing than a business decision. So with that as the foundation, Obrist goes on with numerous interesting individuals regarding the art of the exhibition and the politics of museums. But mostly this is a very up-beat look at the inner-world of a curator and what they do. Obrist asks very pointed and clear questions to his subjects, and they themselves come up with an answer that exposes not only their thoughts but also their love for the artist and their medium. But beyond that it is also a book about 'Taste' and what that means to the world, especially when you use taste to promote a specific vision to the world. A very specific world I might add.

By nature I think a curator is very much a show-and-tell type of character. It is someone who is totally turned on by an idea or a work and needs to expose it. That is it. Also the skill of the curator is also social skills, because you need to communicate that idea to others who may not be in your particular world. Not that far from the book editor or publisher in that sense. Nevertheless there is not that many books on the subject of curating, so this makes it important, as well as an enjoyable read. In the book he interviews Lucy Lippard, Hopps (as mentioned), Pontus Hultén, and Anne d'Harnoncourt among others. Dip into this book, because

you are going to pay a lot of money for it once it goes out of print.

---

### **Eliza says**

A collection of interviews with HUU and various curators, so some interviews are more interesting or insightful than others. I would recommend this book, because it is the first major look at the history of curating, and Obrist is a seminal character in the development of curating (and the Contemporary art world in general). I would however recommend that you read this near by a computer for reference, because some names and places were completely unfamiliar to me. Enjoy!

---

### **Fernando says**

Es un recorrido, en forma de entrevistas, por los trabajos de los principales curadores de Norteamérica y Europa del siglo XX. Todos comparten observaciones sagaces, claras y con grandes enseñanzas incluso para hoy. El gran problema del libro es que si uno se acerca sin un conocimiento previo de artistas, galerías y exposiciones específicas, queda por fuera de muchas de las observaciones más profundas y estimulantes.

---