



# Workshops On Demand

LA TROBE  
ART  
INSTITUTE

Digital Education Resource | 2020

## PARENTS + TEACHERS

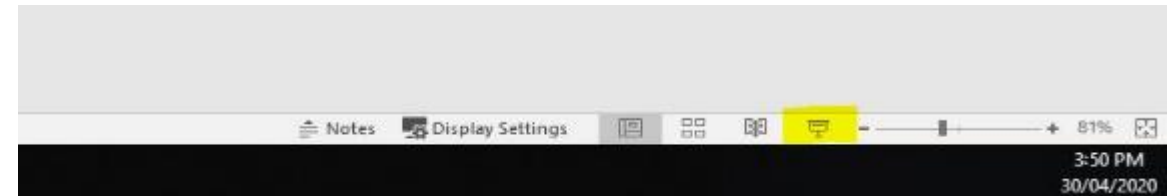
- Use the PowerPoint in 'Presenter' view by clicking the Slide Show menu and checking the 'Use Presenter View' box as shown:



- Then click 'From Beginning' (on the far left)
- This will enable you to see the slides and the notes
- The notes will help you expand on some of the ideas in the presentation
- Click the [links](#) for extended information available online
- Pause at the 'Challenge', 'Discuss' and 'Explore' slides to allow your students/children to chat and create

## STUDENTS:

- Use the PowerPoint in 'Slide Show' mode by clicking the button at the bottom right of your screen as shown:



- Work your way through the slides at your own pace (click to move to the next slide)
- Click the [links](#) for extended information available online
- Have a go at each 'Collaboration Challenge' and consider the ideas on the 'Discuss' and 'Explore' slides

(with one story you may erase another)

# The Label Makers

*How will we label this time in history?*

1 AM A

1. *Small, dark, and irregularly shaped.*

I think that the  
force, I mean, the  
whole thing  
is a  
little bit  
more of a  
thing.

One day, was a girl  
and her companion  
noticed a child in the  
company of the man, they  
said it was a boy.

The dagger is made from a rare  
suspense book captured in 1942  
by Harry Potter!

She hears a creak at  
four, she walks through the  
garden, her basket is empty on  
the sand of the steps. The  
first clump, between dinner  
and tea: the thorn, why he  
could not see the light.

The spear is  
a tool that  
the Indians  
used.

HOME: @  
A PLACE TO LOVE  
AND TO LEARN.  
HOME IS A SAFE  
PLACE.

Some people actually interpret that dress like me and the ants

POUR  
LES  
ANTS

Millicent named after  
the artist's daughter who  
died in a terrible accident.  
It was found in the family  
home, a way to remember  
the only cherished daughter.

ROCK BEGETS METAL  
BEGETS VALLE BEGETS  
NINE BEGETS NATIONS

The old Securitate Blade has been used through the years to send an offering to the saints that kept us through the darkness.

This distant collection  
of shivering inmates was  
found abandoned after a failed  
attempt to steal the same junk.  
No charges were laid but most  
open people have accused the Swedish  
machine

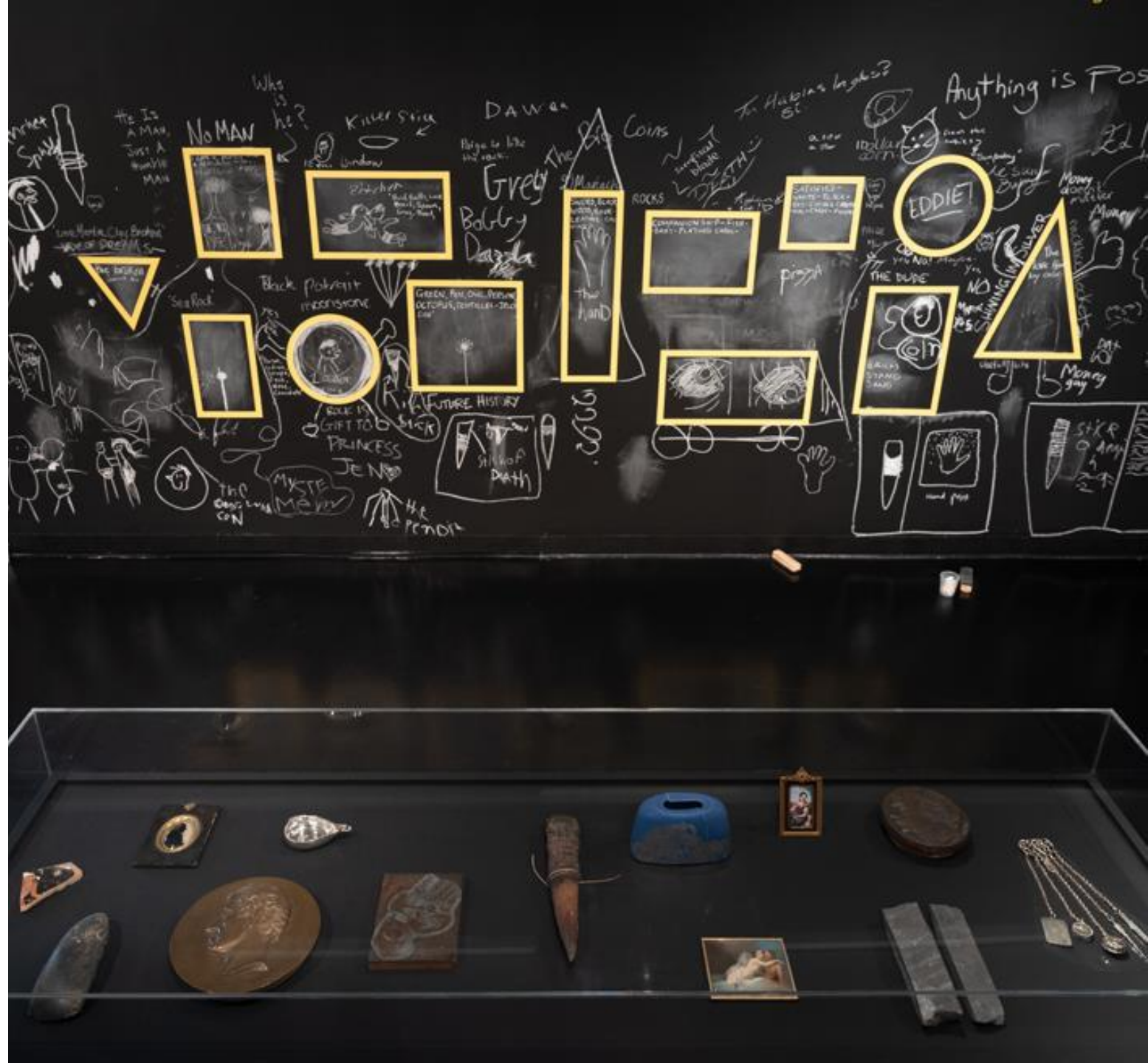
[illegible]

The rocks found by a long dry fire were brown red & there was a purple n. migration

# The Label Makers

*The Label Makers* was an interactive program created by Latrobe Art Institute in 2018.

Visitors were encouraged to consider the way museums and galleries label exhibits to describe art and artefacts.





(one tiny object can belong to many groups)



**Art speak:**  
Galleries and Museums have a complex relationship with exhibition didactics. The western desire for classification stems back to the enlightenment when the aesthetic and industrial culture from the aesthetic collections of objects. The modernist toward the logical and systematic cataloguing of objects. By defining art and artifacts within the Western parameters of museum labelling there was a negation of any other meaning associated with the object. Today cultural institutions are increasingly aware of the power of labels and the way in which they have the potential to both enhance and problematize the visitor experience. This interactive participatory exhibition intends to subvert traditional modes of gallery messaging and places the power in the hands of the visitor.

**Plain speak:**  
This is a fun exhibition where YOU get to name the art, write stories about it, and sort it into groups. You are the Label Maker.



The exhibition was designed to explore and critique the complex relationship that galleries and museums have with exhibition didactics (text or labelling of artwork).



## Who says?

- Western classification began during The Enlightenment in the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18th centuries
- This was a time when ideas about God, reason, nature, and humanity were gathered into a new worldview that became popular in the West.
- This led to many developments in art, philosophy, and politics.
- Academics and rich people became interested in cataloguing objects and many created their own personal museums and galleries.
- They labelled things according to Western ideas - even when the objects came from other cultures. This often meant that other meanings associated with the object were lost.



Image: *Unknown*, Berlin-Braca group Greece, Apulian red-figure volute-krater - fragment of neck (ca. 350 BCE), fired-clay. Trendall collection of antiquities, La Trobe University. Donated by A D Trendall, 1998.



\*Title it:

(with one)

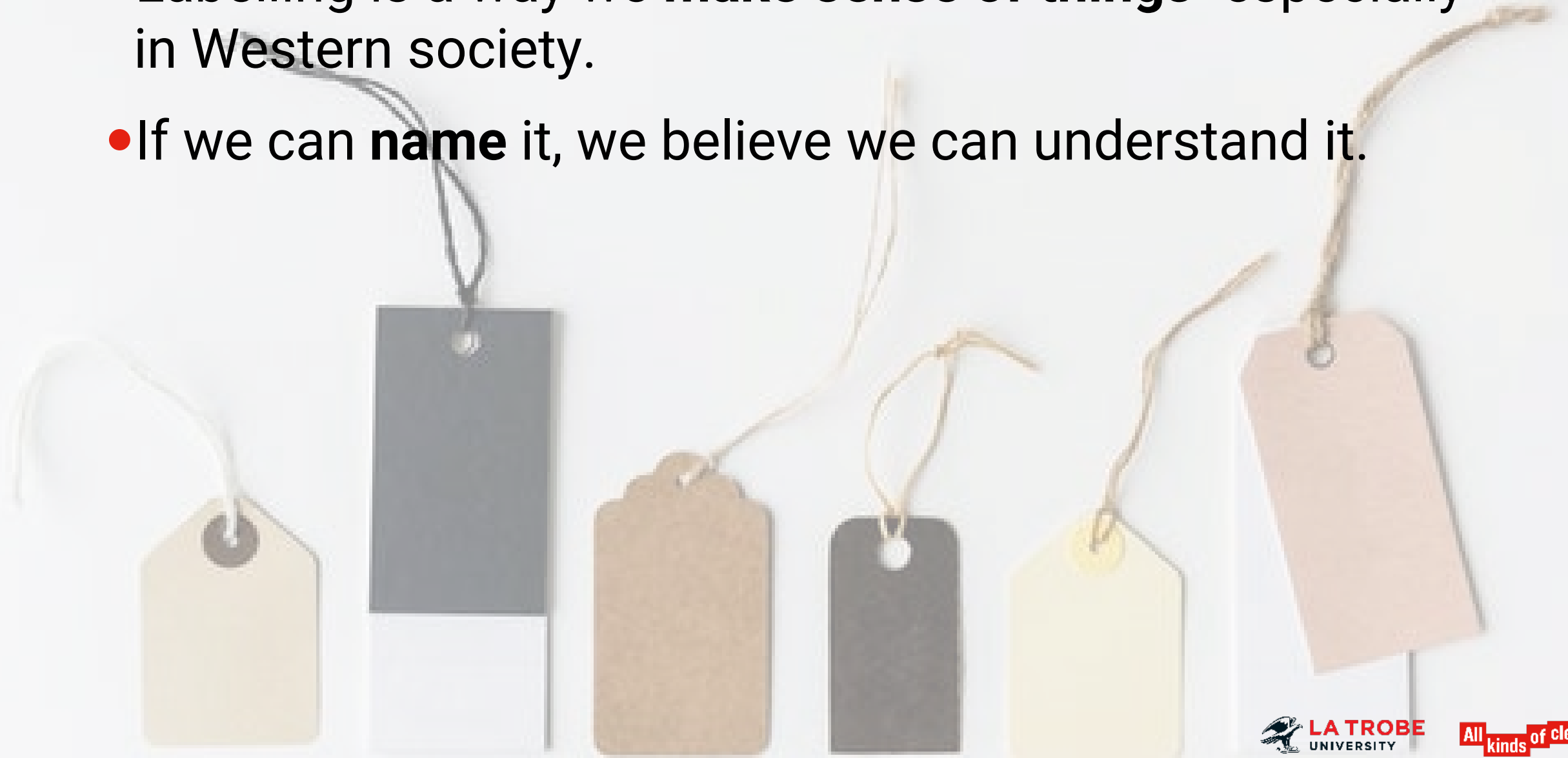
\*tell its story:

(with one)

Today, cultural institutions are more aware of the power of labels and the way in which they have the potential to both enhance and problematise the visitor experience.



- Labelling is a way we **make sense of things** -especially in Western society.
- If we can **name** it, we believe we can understand it.





- Each label is written according to a certain **point of view**.

# The Label Makers



- Labels can **assist** our understanding of an object, and also **limit** or misguide our **understanding** of that thing.

# What Is This? (Who Says?)



- What does the label say about the artefact?
- Who wrote this description?
- What might be their understanding of the artefact and the culture it is part of?
- If someone has a different view of the artefact, does that mean the label is wrong?
- How do we choose the interpretation that is written on the label?

Image: Unknown, *Ritual Stone Adze*, Papua New Guinea, East Sepik, Abelam (n.d.), stone, resin, coloured medium. La Trobe University Ethnographic Collection. Donated by J. Bayton through the T.I.A.S. 1992.



# We Are The Label Makers

- We are all label makers.
- We create labels for things all the time.
- A label is an explanation we give ourselves about...
  - Something
  - Someone
  - or even an event that happens to us -like the Coronavirus pandemic.

# How will we label this time in history?



# Challenge Activity 1

- Collect 5 things from home that describe your time in isolation during the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Imagine you are making an exhibit in a gallery about this event displaying these objects.
- Create a label for each object that describes how this object was significant for you.
- Remember you are telling the story....
- Present these exhibits to your class and pretend you are the gallery guide, explaining the exhibit to visitors.



OBJET: Found Object of day 1-1.47832

MATERIUX: Material to be determined

DATE: 17.3.1961 PROVENANCE Bendigo : C. West Don

CATALOGUE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

MUSEE NATIONAL

D'LABEL MAKERS.

LA TROBE ART INSTITUTE

=====	
" INFORMATION DU SITE "	
" NOM: <u>B. Bob.</u> "	" "
" VILLE/PAYS: <u>Bendigo</u> "	" "
" DATE: <u>1/4/1961.</u> "	" "
" DIRECTEUR: <u>[Signature]</u> "	" "
=====	



- What will your labels look like?
- Use the mock catalogue cards and classification worksheets available here, or create your own!

# Discussion

- Display all your individual exhibits together in your classroom to create a whole exhibition.
- Are there some common themes or objects?
- What does this exhibition say about how you all managed being in isolation?
- What does it say about what people missed or found to be important?
- What were some difficult things about this time and ...
- What were some useful, surprising or unexpectedly wonderful things?



**Thank you**

[latrobe.edu.au](http://latrobe.edu.au)