



What we learned about creativity from our dementia projects

Laurel Humble, Museum of Modern Art, New York, U.S.A.

In 2006 The Museum of Modern Art launched Meet Me at MoMA, a gallery conversation program for individuals with early- to mid-stage Alzheimer's disease and their carepartners. In 2007 MoMA received a grant from MetLife Foundation to create The MoMA Alzheimer's Project: Making Art Accessible to People with Dementia, an initiative which allowed the Museum to develop resources on engaging individuals with dementia with art and to conduct workshops and conferences presentations for museum educators and health professionals. This concentrated effort allowed MoMA staff to better understand the lived experiences of individuals affected by Alzheimer's disease, to reflect on their teaching strategies for this and other audiences, and to consider the goals and motivations of museum visitors. This talk will highlight the origins of MoMA's programs for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their carepartners and also discuss how staff have shifted their thinking about the programs and their audience over time.

Laurel Humble

Laurel Humble is Assistant Educator at The Museum of Modern Art, New York. She is currently responsible for the Education Department's new initiative to increase the participation of older adults in the Museum, called Prime Time. Prior to working on Prime Time, Laurel managed The MoMA Alzheimer's Project. In that role she oversaw outreach efforts for museum and care professionals working with individuals with Alzheimer's disease, conducted professional development workshops and conference presentations, and developed online training resources. She is co-author of the award-winning publication Meet Me: Making Art Accessible to People with Dementia and continues to regularly teach MoMA's programs for individuals with dementia and their carepartners at the Museum. She graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.A. in art history and is currently pursuing an M.A. in urban education from the Graduate Center, City University of New York.