JESSE MARTINEZ

FREELANCE CURATOR

CONTACT

(626) 665-0191

jessem3129@gmail.com

www.linkedin.com/in/jesse-martinez777

San Francisco, CA

SKILLS

Public Speaking
Bilingual (English and Spanish)
Communication
Detail Oriented
Research Ability
Writing (Academic and Public Use)
Problem Solving

EDUCATION

Masters Degree - Museum Studies

San Francisco State University

August 2024 - May 2026
Area of Focus: Curation
GPA: 4.0

Awards:
Graduate Student Award for Distinguished Achievement (April 2026)

Extracurriculars:
President, Museum Studies Student Association (2025 - 2026)

Bachelor of Arts - History of Art

University of California, Berkeley

January 2022 - May 2023
Area of Focus: Reception Studies
GPA: 3.72

Associate's Degree - Art History

Mount San Antonio College

January 2018 - June 2021
GPA: 3.34

Awards:
Outstanding Transfer Scholar (June. 2021)
President's List (December 2020)
Dean's List (June 2020)
English Department's Notable Scholar Award (December 2019)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Exhibition Fellow

Root Division — October 2026 - Present
San Francisco, CA

- Curate monthly exhibits in the Frank-Ratchye Project Space
- Interpretive writing for public use (i.e., gallery text, website text, social media)
- Working closely with studio artists to develop exhibits
- Coordinate and conduct studio visits with current Root Division artists
- Installation and deinstallation of monthly exhibits in the FRPS
- Serve as the Studio Ambassador during the annual auction
- Voting member of Root Division's Curatorial Council
- Assist the lead curator with curatorial research to support exhibits in the Main Gallery and Media Gallery

Board Member, Curator

Lamorinda Arts Council — February 2026 - October 2026
Orinda, CA

- Attend monthly board meetings
- Work with other curators to organize and install monthly exhibits
- Find new artists to be featured in the gallery
- Maintain professional relationships with governmental bodies in Orinda, CA

Exhibitions Fellow

Palo Alto Art Center — June 2025 - August 2025
Palo Alto, CA

- Assisting the Art Center director develop exhibits for the "Year of Clay"
- Assisting guest curators with research into potential artists
- Assisting with object layout for juried ceramics show, "Forming Function"
- Contacting various museums and galleries to inquire about available works, current and future exhibitions
- Collect information on artists for social media posts
- Condition report incoming objects for juried ceramic show, "Forming Function"
- Lead a guided tour for staff and summer interns
- Participate in site visits and professional development activities
- Work with artist Ashwini Bhat, during a performance at Montalvo Art Center

Museum Associate

Claremont Lewis Museum of Art — January 2024 - August 2024
Claremont, CA

- Opening and closing museum procedures
- Prepping interactive activities for guests
- Visitor engagement and outreach
- In-depth knowledge of ongoing rotating exhibits
- Processing store sales and maintaining membership database
- Aiding with special events after hours

Tutor Export II

Mount San Antonio College — July 2023 - June 2024
Walnut, CA

- Guiding students to improve their writing abilities
- Being able to communicate and work with a wide range of students
- Demonstrating patience and empathy working with students of varying skill
- Effective time management and organizational skills
- Maintaining an open line of communication with supervisors and support staff

PROJECTS

Curator
August 2025 - May 2026

On Strike! Shut It Down!: The SF State Strikes of 1968-69
SFSU's Speical Collections Gallery
San Francisco, CA

- Capstone project for my Master's Degree
- Exhibit was created for the Labor Archive and Research Center, located on the 4th floor of the J Paul Leonard Library at SFSU
- Exhibit focused on the student strikes in the late 1960s and the creation of the first Ethnic Studies Department
- Objects for the exhibit came from the LARC's and Bay Area Television Archive's Collections
- Worked closely with an exhibition team as the Curator and Project Manager
- Conducted curatorial research
- Created exhibition text and object checklist
- Collaborated with other departments on campus
- Conducted curator talks and curator-led walkthroughs
- Developed the exhibition under budget
- The opening for this permanent exhibit was on May 9, 2026

Co-Curator
Fall 2024

Craft or Commodity?
Global Museum
San Francisco, CA

- Served as a member of the curating team for this student-led exhibit at the Global Museum at San Francisco State University
- Developed thematic direction
- Wrote explanatory text for wall labels
- Archival research
- Developed layout for exhibit in the gallery
- Assisted with the installation of the exhibit
- Assisted with mount making for objects
- Assisted developing tactile element of exhibit

Preparetor
January 2025 - May 2025

ART 619: Exhibition Development, Prof. Kevin Chen
San Francisco, CA

- Assisted with the installation and deinstallation of "Office of the Ordinary" and "Autonomous Zones" at SFSU's Fine Arts Gallery
- Handling artwork
- Assisted with gallery lighting
- Assisted with AV components for an installation piece
- Assisted with measuring and hanging artworks in the gallery
- Organized and prepped art for installation
- Patching, sanding, and painting walls to prep for installation
- Assisted with packing artworks for transportation

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

MS 720: Curating and Collecting
Fall 2024

Museum Stuides MA, SFSU

- Co-curating the student-led show 'Craft or Commodity?'
- Exhibition proposal titled 'Movies as Mirrors: Cinema as a Social Thermometer'
- Various assignments based on accessibility in museums
- Research paper surrounding museum ethics
- Taught by curator Fran Osborne
- Grade earned: A

MS 730: Exhibition Development
Spring 2025

Museum Stuides MA, SFSU

- Semester long term project creating a micro-museum
  - Sorted into random group and worked on developing the project alongside them for the duration of the semester
  - Responsible for coming up with theme, writing, research, design and delivering a prototype for a final presentation
- Exhibition proposal for Global Lab on campus titled 'Unmaking the Mummy: Hollywood Mythmaking and Ancient Egypt'
- Taught by curator Fran Osborne
- Grade earned: A

ART 619: Exhibition Design
Spring 2025

Museum Stuides MA, SFSU

- Installation and deinstallation of show for SFSU's Fine Arts Gallery
- Prepared and delivered multiple public speaking presentations
- Developed a group curatorial project, "Disembodied Grief"
- Developed an individual curatorial proposal "Almas Sin Fronteras"
- Taught by curator Kevin B. Chen
- Grade earned: A