

JESSE MARTINEZ

FREELANCE CURATOR

CONTACT



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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

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

Board Member, Curator

Lamorinda Arts Council

Orinda, CA

February 2026 - Present

- 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

Palo Alto, CA

June 2025 - August 2025

- 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 directly with artist, Ashwini Bhat, during a performance at Montalvo Art Center in Saratoga, CA

Museum Associate

Claremont Lewis Museum of Art

Claremont, CA

January 2024 - August 2024

- Opening and closing museum procedures
- Prepping interactive activities for guests
- Ensuring the safety of the art, guests, and fellow associates
- Visitor engagement and outreach
- In-depth knowledge of ongoing rotating exhibits
- Processing sales of memberships and catalogs
- Maintaining membership database
- Aiding with special events after hours

Tutor Export II

Mount San Antonio College

Walnut, CA

July 2023 - June 2024

- 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
- Writing detailed reports of each session to be shared with students and staff
- Maintaining an open line of communication with supervisors and support staff
- Working satellite at other student service offices

Merchandiser

Fresh Ideas Flower Co.

La Verne, CA

July 2021- December 2021

- Organized and composed merchandise on display
- Implemented a system of organization for overstock inventory
- Developed a strong relationship with leadership and parent store
- Liaised between my leadership team and that of the parent store

PROJECTS

Curator

August 2025 - May 2026

On Strike! Shut It Down!: The SF State Strikes of 1968-69

SFSU's Special 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

Preparator

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 Studies 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 Studies 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 Studies 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