

# THE SOUL OF THE OBJECT



The Egypt Pavilion Venice Biennale (2018)

"..Perhaps once held in the hands of a child, or set onto a mantle, or gifted to a loved one, objects bear silent witness to rituals, histories and cultural practices. Embedded in every object is an origin upon which is layered an endlessly shifting narrative, whose meanings are in turn expanded and translated as appropriated into multiple contexts..."

Andrea Simitch "Anatomy of Informality"  
ARCHITECTEM; Venice Biennale 2018 [Egypt Pavilion](#)

ARCH 4509/6509/4408/6408

SPECIAL TOPICS IN ARCH REPRESENTATION & ARCH CULTURE SOCIETY

INSTRUCTOR: ANDREA SIMITCH

TIME: THURSDAY 1:30 – 3:30PM

LOCATION: 157 ES

CREDITS: 3

PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR: attend first class for permission requirements

Is collecting an act of preservation, predation, narration, storytelling, archiving, or alchemy? How does the *container* as vehicle for assembling a collection of selected artifacts participate in, frame, and even perhaps construct, meaning? These are but a few of the questions that will foreground the semester's inquiry. Students select a series of objects that together construct a collection. Following a series of short, exploratory exercises to develop strategies of translation from object to container, a precise final 'container' will be constructed to hold/house the collection: container (writ large: *architecture*) as memory box, curiosity cabinet, cultural narrative, touristic case, or environmental archive, to suggest but a few. Conceptual strategies, constructional techniques, operational devices and representational tactics will be emphasized in the production of the final work.

Sessions will involve student presentations and project critiques. The works of Judd, Nevelson, Chareau, Gray, Matta-Clark, Urquhart, Rocco, Cornell, Duchamp, Da Vinci, Giacometti, Märkli, the Shakers, Chinese Curiosity Cabinets amongst others will be discussed. Students' enthusiasm for contributing to an expanded range of resources will be actively solicited.

"...I have built this Immaginario in the form of a sphere as a game that is as difficult to take apart as it is to reassemble. It is a labyrinth, a metaphor of the life of Christopher Columbus".

Franco Rocco, *Immaginario Lunare: La Via di Colombo* (1991)

