

ICOM CECA Conference
Shanghai 7-12 November 2010

*Memories of the city: an application of
Memory boxes in museums*

城市記憶：
博物館應用記憶百寶箱之初探

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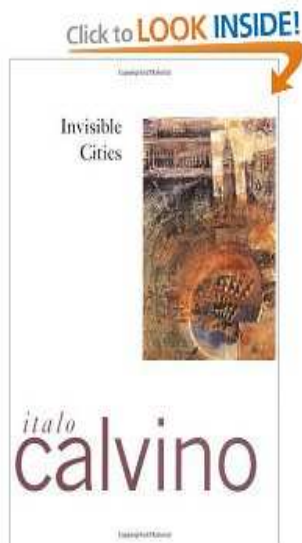
Co-Chair of Standards SIG of MCN Taiwan
Academia Sinica (中央研究院)

2010-11-10
Market of Ideas



**As this wave from memories flows in,
the city soaks up like a sponge and expands.**

當來自記憶的浪潮湧入，
城市就像海綿一樣將它吸收，然後脹大。



From: Calvino, *Invisible Cities— Cities & Memory 3*
卡爾維諾, *看不見的城市--城市與記憶之三*



What memory does the city soak?

Who's memory?

城市吸收的記憶是什麼記憶？

誰的記憶？

City museums play an important role of interpreting city through their collection and exhibition.

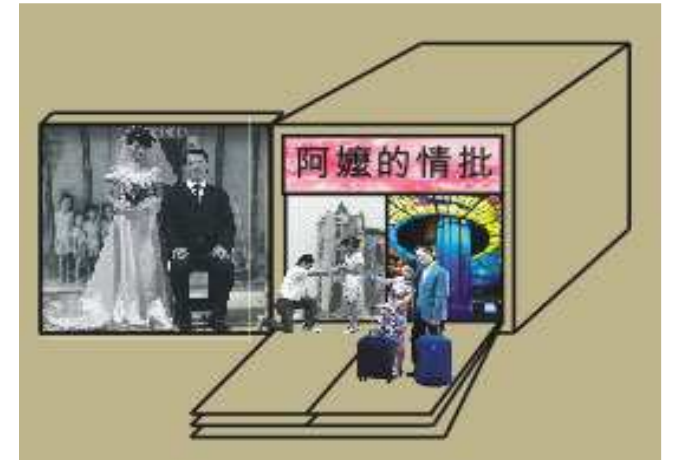
城市博物館透過收藏與展示，
扮演著詮釋城市的重要角色

What memory and who's memory do city museums collect and exhibit?

城市博物館收藏展示的是什麼記憶？

誰的記憶？

Preface



*My presentation aims to discuss how **museum invite people** using their collection to **share their memories about the city** in a way of **making their won memory boxes**.*

Memory Box Exhibition- Germany



Hildesheim is a mid-sized provincial town in northwest Germany.

Hildesheim Culture Center used grenade boxes(手榴彈箱) as memory boxes for people to install and exhibit their memories.



The youngest participant is 9 years old, and the eldest is 89 years old.

European Project- Making Memories Matter

Over 100 older people from 7 European countries have worked with artists to make their life stories into Memory Boxes.



These boxes are touring museums and galleries across Europe in 2004.



2010 World Exposition- London Case Pavilion

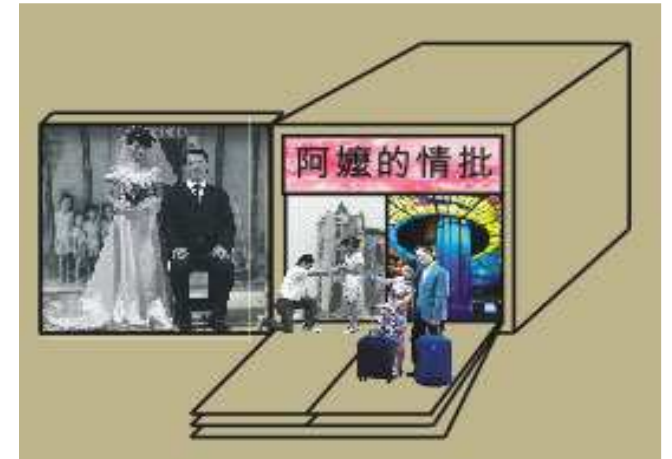




The Unpack London Exhibition comprises 26 suitcases.

These suitcases are made by artists to show London as a low-carbon city.

Question



◆ *Who's memory and what memory of the city does the city museum represent?*

I want to discuss this question by a case study in Taiwan.

Kaohsiung

高雄

Kaohsiung is the second largest city in Taiwan.



Kaohsiung has a close relationship with ocean.
Its port transports most of Taiwan's goods.





Kaohsiung Museum of History

“History Treasure Chest of Kaohsiung—
New Community Story Exhibition”

2009~2010

歷史的河
靜靜地流
流過日月星辰
流過千山萬水
它雖無言
但卻有情
您永遠的好朋友-高雄市立歷史博物館
歡迎您來「探索」！

KAOSIUNG
MUSEUM
OF
HISTORY

中文版 ENGLISH 兒童網站

The museum invites artists, schools, and community groups using their own collections to tell the story which happen in Kaohsiung.



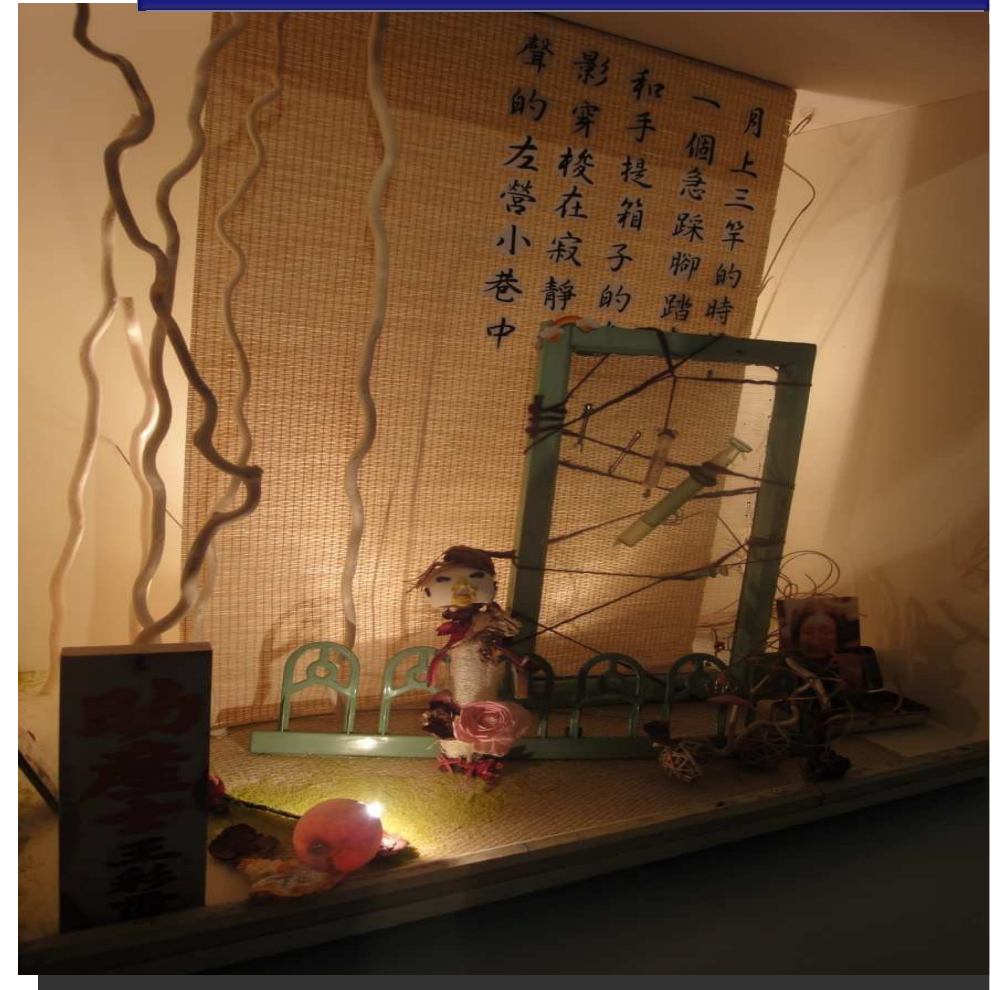
To analyze the exhibition,
we can divide the content of memory box into three categories:

1. A portrait of ordinary people
2. Group Identity
3. The vanishing landscape



1. A portrait of ordinary people

'A story of midwife- Ms. Wang'

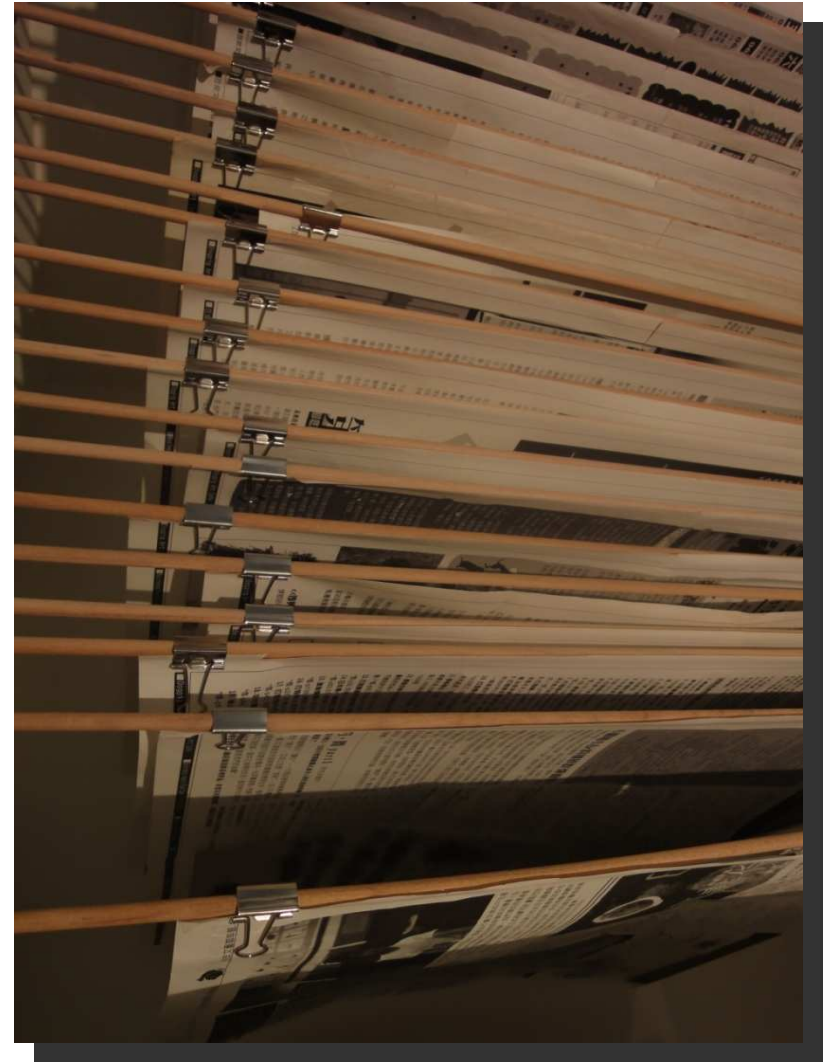


A midwife provides continuous support to women with uncomplicated pregnancies during pregnancy and labor.
Ms. Wang had helped three generations in a family to give birth to babies.

2. Group Identity



'Dog Pig Art Cafe'



DOPI art café is a cafeshop where provides spaces for artists to held workshops and exhibitions. The café put their periodicals in the box.

2. Group Identity

'Dog Pig Art Cafe'



The creator intends to let visitors can take out the periodicals to watch them, however, the museum forbids visitors to touch.

3. The vanishing landscape

'The vanishing landscapes in Kaohsiung'

Ms. Tseng says:

The city landscapes and architectures vanish so quickly. I start to document these vanishing landscapes, and put these photos in glasses like **specimen**.



3. The vanishing landscape

'Photos of Hongmaogong'



Hongmaogong is a village near sea.

It is forbid to build new buildings since 1970.

The government decides to build a container seaport there.

8,000 families need to resettlement.

These are photos of Hongmaogong before being a container seaport.



Because of the urbanization, many old houses and buildings are pull down.



Discussion

Who's memory and what memory of the city does the city museum represent?

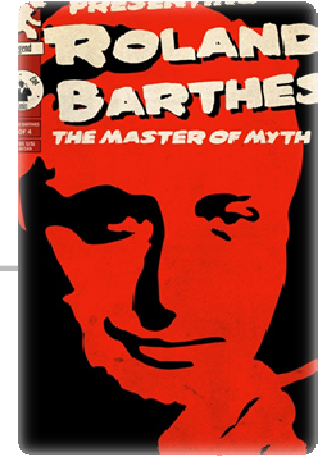
1. A portrait of ordinary people
2. Group Identity
3. The vanishing landscape

◆ *What kind of collection will be selected by people to remember their city?*

souvenirs, periodicals, photos.....



Conclusion



Roland Barthes once said

‘City is a place where we meet the other’

「城市是我們遇見他者的地方」

I believe that an important role of the city museum is to be a place where different viewpoints and stories can be heard, be discussed, and be understood.

From this collaboration between museums and citizens, we might have a chance to enhance a more harmonious society.

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Thanks for Listening !!

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