

## Making the Case for Slow Cataloguing

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Over the last 20 years, there has been a significant push across the UK museum sector to digitise collections images and information at scale, ostensibly to improve and democratise online access. However, the pace and scope of digital dissemination has not fostered, and may be fundamentally incompatible with, the in-depth, ethical and equitable knowledge production required for a genuinely meaningful contribution to the cultural record.

Drawing on their research as part of the AHRC-funded [Provisional Semantics](#) project (2020-22), Ananda Rutherford and Anjalie Dalal-Clayton will advocate for a slow approach to cataloguing, where depth, context and ethical engagement are valued over expediency and scale and are embedded as key practices within organisations rather than as project-based interventions. This approach is critical in museum collections that contain work by minoritized and racialised makers, where a lack of knowledge, interest and care is often evident in the record and cements their longstanding neglect and marginalisation by public cultural institutions.

Ananda and Anjalie will discuss the benefits and challenges of collaborative object analysis and interpretation as part of cataloguing practice, as well as some of the ethical issues that emerge when involving a range of stakeholders and subject-specialists in the process. In the spirit of collaboration, they will invite a selection of respondents to join them in discussion about these approaches.