

*Marina Valle Noronha, Aalto University*

## No Longer Artwork

A contemporary notion of collecting contradicts with the traditional idea that artworks have to be preserved for eternity. This conceptual paper presents a curatorial perspective on the subject and speculate on a time - not far from now - where artworks no longer exist and museums have to rethink their current engagement with artworks. The alarming current situation that museums face in terms of finance and storage opens up the ground for a new approach to conservation and curating, which takes into account that the act of collecting cannot be understood primarily as accumulation. But for that is needed a paradigm shift on how we think of and engage with changing objects. The overall goal of this paper to propose through curating ways of engaging with artworks/cultural heritage that have been - for different reasons - lost. This paper introduces other ways of thinking through art objects with emphasis on their lifespan, what constitutes their presence in a collection and different notions of time. It offers an innovative perspective to collection curating and artworks management, theoretically focused on human relationships to objects in museums. And it claims that rethinking about how we talk about art (and artworks) can also lead to other forms of engagement with them.