

## TABERNAKEL

*Tabernakel* is a multiple, mobile, portable exhibition contained within a transparent suitcase: a microcosm and a catalyst for encounter, reflection, dialogue, and the collective imagination.

The term ‘tabernacle’ encompasses a multiplicity of meanings. It derives from the Latin ‘tabernaculum’, meaning ‘tent’ or ‘temporary dwelling,’ and by extension a ‘movable space.’ In the Bible, the Tabernacle is described as the dwelling place of God and as a site of assembly during Moses’ and his companions’ flight from Egypt. Later, the term also acquired the connotation of the body as the vessel of the soul. The interpretation of ‘tabernacle’ in this project is secular and artistic in nature and refers in particular to the concept of a portable, movable space for something meaningful.

Almost ninety years ago, Marcel Duchamp’s *Boîte-en-valise* already posed the question whether art must necessarily be expensive, monumental, static, or exclusive. Joseph Cornell, in turn, succeeded in creating countless miniature universes, narratives, and moments of wonder by arranging found objects, treasures, and ephemera within his often self-made boxes.

Finally, *Tabernakel* refers directly to Hans Ulrich Obrist’s *Nanomuseum*, through which he was able to present art quite literally in the palm of the viewer’s hand: “Operating outside the constraints of a large-scale museum structure, the *Nanomuseum* functions on a zero-dollar budget as a migrating conversation free from the limitations of conventional exhibition space and time.”<sup>[1]</sup> *Tabernakel* seeks to do this - and to go one step further. It does not aim to be accessible only to a select audience but to remain permanently visible through the transparent nature of its case, wherever it may travel. Operating as a pretext for moments of community, connection, and sharing, the suitcase moves like a traveller’s tent or a working person’s briefcase through the hands of a.o. (featured) artists, galleries, friends, ... The exhibition comes to the viewer, rather than the other way around. *Tabernakel* creates and enhances a network through its moving from person to person, fleeting yet inviting, always oriented towards curiosity and encounter in the public and artistic realms. Multiple *Tabernakels* may circulate simultaneously.

Samuel Pennynck

[1] ‘CHRIS MARKER NANOMUSEUM SAMENGESTELD DOOR HANS-ULRICH OBRIST’