



Object Care and Handling

Utah Museum of Fine Arts
Education Collection
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“When children are taught to handle beautiful but fragile objects, it shows they are worthy of your trust.”

- Demonstrate handling with exaggerated care
- Wear gloves when handling objects
- Communicate where to place the object when done handling
- Hold only one object at a time
- Use two hands when holding an object, one hand under the base and the other steadying the object
- Do not hand an object from one person to another, instead set the object down and have the second person pick it up
- Hold the object in its most stable position
- Take your time when holding the object
- Do not eat or drink around the object
- Do not store the object in direct sunlight or leave in extreme temperatures
- When handling textiles roll rugs, weavings, etc., face side out
- When handling glazed ceramics or glass it might be necessary to handle the object with bare hands if the surface is too slick to safely hold the object with gloves
- Do not use glass cleaner on Plexiglas.
- Do not affix tape of any kind to Plexiglas, laminated posters, frames, glass or hands-on objects.
- Some storage materials are acid free and made to preserve the objects. Objects should be returned in the boxes they were checked out in (including tissue).

Activity- In groups have students display the objects in your classroom:

Create a label for the object. Start with the Title of the object and a brief description that would include information about its construction, history, function or design. Next include a line about how the object fits in with the classroom display. Conclude your label with one point that would be of interest to the reader. Here are examples for the same object:

Rolling Pin, c.1934, Lathe turned from birch. Unfinished, 45cm long, 5cm diameter. Shows signs of wear and staining from use; split on end.

Rolling Pin, Hand-made gift, 1934. Used for 60 years, winning many baking prizes at the Gympie Show.

Create a context for the object. Use resources found in your class or school to create additional display objects or text to inform the viewer of the object’s original context or learning connections.