

Handling paper, paintings and framed objects

Exhibition Layout

- As acidic paper can be brittle, provide support under the object your moving with a rigid material like archival card/board
- Sandwich between card/boards if carrying outside
- Separate items with acid free tissue
- Mylar sleeves, Copysafe sleeves, ziplock bags can all be used to carry paper items
- Always carry items horizontally
- Solander boxes can be used to store or carry larger numbers of items
- Beware chalky materials such as pastels, chalks or pencil which can be smudged and are affected by static electricity which can build up in Mylar or Perspex

Handling paintings and other framed works

- Before moving a painting check for areas of flaking paint. If there are areas where the paint is loose, carry the work horizontally
- In all other cases, carry the painting upright
- Check that the painting is secure in its frame
- Check that the stretcher wedges are secure
- Remove all screw-eyes, wires and hooks from frames before moving paintings
- Never carry framed works by the top of the frames nor by the picture wire
- Carry with one hand supporting the underside and one hand supporting the side
- If resting against a wall, use foam or padded wooden blocks to raise the work off the floor
- Place down evenly across the bottom edge
- Don't place fingers around stretcher bars as you can dent/damage the paintwork

Handling material with soft painted surfaces

- This includes objects such as painted Aboriginal spears and clubs
- Handle these as little as possible. Typically pigments are not well-adhered to the surface and will easily rub off

You might also like:

How to: Handle museum objects

Museums & Galleries of NSW

<https://mgnsw.org.au/sector/resources/online-resources/collection-care/handle-museum-objects/>

Objects Handling Basics

Connecting to Collections' useful discussion about when to wear gloves and what type to choose

<http://www.connectingtocollections.org/objecthandling/>

Museum Note #6: Handling Museum Objects

Heritage & Libraries Branch, Ontario Ministry of Culture

https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/hrb/pdf/handling_museum_objects.pdf

Handling, Packing and Shipping

National Parks Service, Museum Handbook

<https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/mhi/chap6.pdf>