Condition Report Activity

Conservators are responsible for taking care of all of the art in a museum. They examine objects, record the present conditions, and monitor for changes.

Condition Reports are used by Conservators to document an art object.

When Conservators write condition reports they include basic object information and a description, including asking who, what, when, and where questions about the artwork. Conservators look closely at the object and note what they see.

Why are Condition Reports important?

Conservators have to:

Document what an object looks like at the present time.

and

Record damage to the object, such as chips or scratches, instabilities like cracks or lifting paint, old repairs like glue or recreated parts, or things on the surface like dust, corrosion, or mold.

and

Monitor for future changes that would signify that the object is unstable, deteriorating, and/or in need of conservation treatment.

On the next page is a worksheet with examples of some of the things Conservators look for when they write Condition Reports. Try filling it out!
Condition Report Worksheet

Want to be a Conservator for a day? Choose a museum object and tell us how it is doing.

(hint: look at the label next to the object)

Title: __________________________________________

Medium (wood, ceramic, paper, paint, etc.): ______________________

Artist: __________________________________________

Culture: __________________________________________

Date: __________________________________________

Measurements (check the correct box):

Is the object….

- Taller than you? ______
- Bigger than this sheet of paper? ______
- Smaller than this sheet of paper? ______
- Smaller than your hand? ______

Sketch a drawing of the object here. Draw arrows to connect the condition issues in the list on the left to your drawing, showing us the places where these issues are on your object.

Possible Condition Issues:

- Chip
- Missing parts
- Crack/Tear
- Dirt/Grime/Dust
- Hole
- Mold
- Insect Damage (small holes, tunnels, etc.)
- Scratch
- Old repairs
- Corrosion
- Other