

Made in America: Exploring American History Through Art Outreach Suitcase

*"The American Art Outreach Suitcase was so appropriate to the fifth and sixth grade Social Studies curriculum; I don't know how it could have been any better."
—Elementary Educator*



ABOUT THE SUITCASE

This suitcase explores how American fine and decorative arts illustrate the United States' history and identity in the eighteenth through the twenty-first centuries. The items in this suitcase are reproductions or originals intended to help students more closely examine features of American art and culture. Using these objects, students will be able to discuss the variety and interaction of cultural traditions in the United States that created American society.

Book this suitcase online at www.seattleartmuseum.org/programs-and-learning/schools-and-educators/teacher-resource-center/suitcases.

LOOKING QUESTIONS

Encourage your students to look closely at the objects in the suitcase and images from SAM's Collection with questions like:

- How do art and artifacts help define culture?
- Who is part of American culture?
- How would you define American art?
- How does American art reflect our nation's past?

WHAT'S IN THE AMERICAN ART OUTREACH SUITCASE?

Educator Resource Guide

- A list of relevant objects in the suitcase
- A list of images on the CD that relate to these objects
- Background information on the objects
- Guiding questions
- Activity ideas
- Additional resources and glossary
- Washington State, Common Core, and National Core Arts Standards

Objects in the Suitcase (Pictured on Front)

- Waistcoat and wig
- Magnetic frames
- Shaker chair miniature
- Model canoe
- Columbian Exposition print and spoon
- Mammoth Carleton Watkins prints
- Stereographs and lorgnettes
- Abraham Lincoln bust
- DVDs

Supplemental Images from SAM's Collection (on CD and 11 X 17" Prints)

Objects: Waistcoat, Wigs and Frame

- [Dr. Silvester Gardiner](#), John Singleton Copley, Gift of Ann and Tom Barwick, Barney A. Ebsworth, Maggie and Douglas Walker, Virginia and Bagley Wright, and Ann P. Wyckoff; and gift, by exchange, of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Gerber; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Brechemin; Mrs. Reginald H Parsons Memorial; Anne Parsons Frame, in memory of Lieutenant Colonel Jasper Ewing Brady, Jr., and Maud B. Parsons; Estate of Louise Raymond Owens; Anonymous donors; and Eugene Fuller Memorial Collection; with additional funds from the American Art Support Fund and the American Art Acquisition Fund, in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Seattle Art Museum, 2006.125, Photo: Susan Cole
- [Anthony of Padua](#), 2013, Kehinde Wiley, Gift of the Contemporary Collectors Forum, 2013.8, © Kehinde Wiley

Object: Shaker Chair

- [Shaker chair](#), ca. 1830, Decorative Arts Acquisition Fund, 2000.47

SAMPLE ACTIVITY: PICTURING PEOPLE, PAINTING PORTRAITS

- Have students create their own colonial portraits like John Singleton Copley's painting of Dr. Sylvester Gardiner included on CD. (You can investigate colonial clothing with the Colonial Williamsburg at www.history.org/history/clothing/men/mglossary.cfm.) Select one student to model the waistcoat and wig in the suitcase for the class as they draw their own portraits with frames or write a poem about what they see. Ask the model to explain choices in his/her posture and stance and have the rest of the class share their portrait or poem with the class.

- [Chest over three drawers](#), ca. 1810–30, Acquired in honor of John T. Kirk, Purchased with the American furniture fund, Decorative Arts Acquisition fund and the Margaret E. Fuller Purchase fund, 99.49

Object: Canoe

- [Puget Sound on the Pacific Coast](#), 1870, Albert Bierstadt, Gift of the Friends of American Art at the Seattle Art Museum, with additional funds from the General Acquisition Fund, 2000.70, Photo: Paul Macapia
- [Mount Rainier, Bay of Tacoma-Puget Sound](#), 1875, Sanford Robin Gifford, Partial and promised gift of Ann and Tom Barwick and gift, by exchange, of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Brechemin; Max R. Schweitzer; Hickman Price, Jr., in memory of Hickman Price; Eugene Fuller Memorial collection; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hirschl and the estate of Louise Raymond Owens, 90.29, Photo: Paul Macapia
- [Smoky Sunrise, Astoria Harbor](#), 1882, Cleveland Rockwell, Partial gift of Len and Jo Braarud, Ann and Tom Barwick, Marshall and Helen Hatch; and partial gift, by exchange, of Lawrence Bogle, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Collins, Eustace Ziegler, Mary E. Humphrey and Eugene Fuller Memorial Collection, 89.70

- [Canoe model](#), late 18th-early 19th century, Margaret E. Fuller Purchase Fund and the General Acquisition Fund in honor of Jay and Susan Gates, 93.80

Objects: Columbian Exposition Spoon and Poster

- [Amor Caritas](#), 1898, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Gift of Ann and Tom Barwick, the General Acquisition Endowment, the Gates Foundation Endowment, the Utley Endowment, the American Art Endowment, and the 19th Century Paintings Fund, in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Seattle Art Museum, 2006.4
- [Tankard](#), 1893, Promised gift of Ruth J. Nutt, in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Seattle Art Museum, T98.5.4

Objects: Landscape Photograph, Stereographs and Lorgnettes

- [Chinese Lady](#), Carleton E. Watkins, Purchased with funds from the Estate of Mary Arrington Small, 85.267
- [Tsatsalatsa-Skokomish](#), c. 1912, Edward S. Curtis, Gift of Simon Ottenberg, in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Seattle Art Museum, 2005.128

Objects: Abraham Lincoln Bust

- [Gwendolyn Knight](#), 1934-35, Augusta Savage, Gift of Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence, 2006.86