



FAMILY GUIDE

CREATING AN EXHIBITION



WHAT IS AN EXHIBITION?

An **exhibition** is a presentation of artwork focused on a main idea. To create an exhibition, **curators**, who are experts on art and history, first come up with a great idea for a story they would like to share with others. The story can be about an artist's life and work, a period of history, or it can be a big idea such as portraits throughout time. Curators create a list of all of the objects that they want to include in the exhibition. Then, they decide on how to place the objects in the museum to best tell their story.



Crate being moved by boom lift.
Photo: Julius Pickenpack

HOW DOES ART GET TO THE MUSEUM?

Registrars help coordinate the arrival of the art. The artwork is packed safely in a **crate** (a wooden box made to fit the artwork perfectly) and loaded on a plane, ship or truck.



Art handlers lifting an artwork with a **gantry**.
Photo: Julius Pickenpack

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT ARRIVES?

When the art arrives at the museum, it is unpacked by art handlers. **Art handlers** are people who are trained to treat artwork with special care. Sometimes, if the art is heavy or large, art handlers need special equipment like a **gantry**, **crane**, or **fork lift**.

The registrar makes **condition reports** to be sure that the art looks the same as it did when it left another museum or the artist's studio. A condition report includes an image of the artwork with notes describing any damages or changes.

Finally, the curator decides the perfect place for the art. Sometimes, it has to be moved several times before the curator finds the right spot!

CREATE A CONDITION REPORT FOR YOUR SHOE!

Look closely at one of the shoes you are wearing. Make sure you note all the scratches, marks, and creases you see.

Draw your shoe and make note of all the signs of wear you find in this space.

How has the condition of your shoe changed from when you first purchased or wore it?



MEET OUR CURATOR

Jed Morse has been with the Nasher Sculpture Center for ten years. He attended school at Middlebury College and the University of Texas. He thinks the best part of his job is working with art every day.



MEET OUR REGISTRAR

Melisa Durkee is new to the Nasher Sculpture Center. She has worked at the Yale University Art Gallery. The farthest she has traveled with a work of art is from Louisville, KY to Seattle, WA. She spent 50 hours in a tractor trailer. She said, "it was an amazing way to see our beautiful country!"