



CRAFT IN AMERICA

COLLECTING AND CURATING MEANING-FILLED OBJECTS EDUCATION GUIDE

Introduce the Collecting and Curating Project

Explain that students will assume the roles of both collector and curator as they gather artworks/objects—digital or actual—to form a collection, attending to the meanings that these artworks/objects have or the story they tell. They then will “curate” an exhibition of these artworks/objects, imagining and planning the space for displaying them, determining how the audience will encounter and perceive the objects as they plan the “pathway” for viewing, and provide a vision (message, story, perspective) for the exhibition. Students may work alone or in small groups to complete the project.

Explain that the Collecting and Curating Project consists of four main tasks:

- Choosing a collection
- Exploring exhibitions: How are artworks/objects displayed?
- Planning an exhibition
- Presenting and reflecting upon the exhibition plan

Choosing a Collection

Have students work alone or in small groups on this project. They first will need to decide upon which of the following collection options they will choose as their focus.

- Option 1: Building on the Leaf Bowl.
Create an exhibition of Kay Sekimachi’s *Leaf Bowl* and other objects made by this or other artists, for a maximum number of 10 objects, chosen from the Craft in America website. Visit craftinamerica.org and explore objects in the Exhibitions menu.
- Option 2: Showcasing an existing collection.
Create an exhibition of your own personal collection of five to ten objects. These may be shells, buttons, pottery pieces, or other objects that you have joined together as a collection.
- Option 3: Creating an exhibit as a self (or group) portrait.
Create an exhibition of five to ten objects that represent who you are and what you care about.

For each option, students should complete the worksheet, *Collection Inventory*, to complete a record of their collection and state why they have selected each object for the collection.