



News

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For Immediate Release
9/9/08

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Art Museum chosen to receive conservation books

BROOKINGS, S.D. — Irreplaceable original oil paintings, delicate embroidered cloth, treasured Native American basketry and other artworks in the care of the South Dakota Art Museum will be protected in perpetuity through the help of an IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal funding for the nation's museums and libraries, in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), gave 776 bookshelves to selected museums, libraries and archives throughout the country. The SDAM was one of those selected to receive the conservation resource materials.

“A current national study tells us that 190 million objects need conservation treatment,” explained Anne-Imelda Radice, director of the IMLS based in Washington, DC. “We want to help institutions conserve our heritage with this permanent resource.”

The bookshelf contains an essential set of books, online resources and a user's guide for collections typically found in art or history museums

“These materials will give us the guidance to address the different needs of our artifacts,” said Lisa Scholten, curator of collections at the SDAM.

The materials address such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness and culturally specific conservation issues.

“There are 7,000 pieces in the museum's permanent collection, including Marghab linens, Native artifacts, photographs, lithographs and different types of sculpture that all need to be handled on an individual basis,” said Scholten.

“The bookshelf will help us properly handle, house and exhibit our wide variety of objects,” she concluded.

The state art museum is part of the second wave of institutions to receive this essential set of resources based on an application describing the needs and plans for care of its collections.

Based on enthusiastic response to the bookshelf, IMLS will offer a third round of competition to distribute an additional 1000 bookshelves.

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Photo: This Klikitat basket from the Seiferle Tribal Art Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum was made by Elsie Thomas, a Washington Klikitat tribal member, and is one of various pieces that need specific care and handling through instructions outlined by the Bookcase of materials given by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

