

# *Keep It? Fix It? Sell It? Gift It? Toss It?*

## Caring for your collections, family heirlooms and treasures

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This illustrated course will explore aspects of caring for objects, organizing, disposing, downsizing and assessing the value of objects in personal inventories. It will identify when to seek professional help. Whether collecting stamps, coins, medals, porcelain, glass, tapestries, art, weapons, wine, dolls, toys, quilts, clocks, radios, records, photographs or books, the principles covered in this course will be applicable. Find out where to see high quality collections at fairs, auctions, exhibitions, galleries, eBay, 1stdibs and more.

Lecturer: Erica Claus

Session: Fall 2016 Session I

Dates: Wednesdays, September 21 – October 12 (4 weeks)

Time: 1:30 - 3:30

Location: Room 124, Leeds House Building

Schedule of topics:

### **Week 1**

“Keep It? Fix It? Toss It? Sell It? Gift It? This topic explores criteria for making challenging decisions about treasured objects, whether a “collector”, a casual acquirer or the inheritor of family heirlooms. Participants will find solutions to the conundrum of dealing with accumulated objects, whether in a collecting mode or a downsizing one. What types of values do collections or individual objects possess; sentimental, monetary, historical, cultural or social values all have relevance for an object and the context in which it exists. This session will address how to determine when an appraisal might be useful, questions to ask appraisers and disposition options (donation, sale, retain).

### **Week 2**

Whether collecting, disposing, downsizing or simply interested in honing skills to appreciate material culture, this session will propose ways to become an informed culture aficionado. Learn to identify types of collectibles, types and styles of art and where to find relevant documentation. Explore proven strategies to train the eye to appreciate quality, value and aesthetics in art and antiques. Collecting 101, “Artiquette” and more.

**Did you know?** Your registration in the LinR program allows you to borrow materials from Carleton University’s MacOdrum Library. To receive a temporary borrowing card, visit the circulation desk and identify yourself as a participant of LinR.

### **Week 3**

Learn about the latest options in documentation of art, antiques, collectibles and residential contents; gain the ability to create easy-to-use inventories; develop the ability to accurately describe objects; and take control of your collections in an easy and organized method. This session will prepare participants to logically organize personal collections and household contents and to identify information and tools to get started. Hands-on documentation of an object will be done as a group exercise.

### **Week 4**

Caring for collections including the basics of good conservation, how to care for art and collectibles, when to do it yourself and when to consult a professional conservator. Case Study of the Rose Family Painting will be used to illustrate these principles.

#### **Recommended readings for continued learning:**

Internet Links will be provided in week 1.

“Art Collecting 101: Collect what you like, frame who you are- even on a budget”, American Express Essentials.

“Caring for your Collection”, AXA ART, [axa-art.com/us/caring-for-your-collection](http://axa-art.com/us/caring-for-your-collection).

“Researching Your Art: How to Care for Your Collections”, Smithsonian American Art Museum, [americanart.si.edu/research/tools/art/care](http://americanart.si.edu/research/tools/art/care).

“Caring for Your Artwork”, McMichael Canadian Collection, [mcmichael.com/artwork.cfm](http://mcmichael.com/artwork.cfm).

“12 Things to Never EV ER Throw Out When You’re Downsizing”, Lindsey Campbell, House Beautiful, August 29, 2014.

“Top 10 tips for Downsizing”, Helen Racanelli, Style at Home, August 29, 2005.

“Why Home Inventories Aren’t Just for the Rich”, Katherine Ross, Insurance Journal, August 6, 2015.

“A Poor Collector’s Guide to Buying Great Art”, Erling Kagge, 2015.

“The Top 5 Collectors in Canada: Five Profiles”, Sky Goodden, Blouin Artinfo, August 1, 2013.

“The Six Habits of Highly Successful Art Collectors”, Sara Angel, The Globe and Mail, August 30, 2012.

“How to Collect Art Like a Pro – Building a Collection”, Alan Bamberger, Gordon’s Art Reference Inc., 2007.

“Collections Care”, Library of Congress, [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)