



Advice for Museums

Collections Care Training

Method Statement: Labelling an object with paraloid

This method statement details how to carry out museum object labelling on stable hard surfaces using paraloid.

If in any doubt how to carry out this method of object labelling, please contact a specialist before attempting to do it yourself.

If you have any questions relating to this resource, please contact partnerships@nms.ac.uk



Purpose

- To correctly label museum objects
- To be used on stable hard surfaces (metals, ceramics, glass, wood, bone)

Materials

- Nitrile gloves
- Paraloid B72 20% solution in acetone
- Calligraphy pen with black or white ink
- Fine paintbrush
- Acetone
- Cotton swabs
- Tyvek cushions
- Microfiber cloth
- Soft hair brushes
- Air extraction system

Method

1. Turn on air ventilation extraction unit and put on nitrile gloves.
2. In an inconspicuous small area, test acetone with cotton swab on object surface to make sure it does not react or harm the surface of the object.
3. Apply thin coat of Paraloid B72 to object surface with fine paintbrush on path where number will sit. Allow 30 minutes to dry.
4. Write number over base coat with markers or calligraphy pen and ink. Allow to dry (if number is illegible remove with cotton swab of acetone and start again).
5. Apply coat of Paraloid B72 with one light stroke to prevent smearing (this is also doable with Paraloid B67 and white spirit but has more off-gassing and to be used more selectively).
6. Check that number is correct.

This guidance has been coordinated by the Collections Services Department at National Museums Scotland.

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