

## **Recording Condition of the Warmun Community Collection**

### **Condition Assessment**

Everyone has a different idea of what is good, fair and bad condition. But it is still important to record because we can get an idea of the collection as a whole and know what objects and artworks are most in need of attention from a conservator.

#### **Good Condition**

- Paint is not flaking off
- Canvas is flat and tight
- No breaks, splits or chips in wood carving
- No stains or dirt
- Looks good, you would be happy to put it on display

#### **Okay Condition (Fine/fair)**

- Sits in the middle
- Its not the best, but its not really bad
- Maybe old stains and a little bit worn
- Doesn't have any active deterioration, no mould, no active insect damage
- Doesn't have any loose bits

#### **Bad Condition**

- Damage that isn't already recorded – ie new damage
- Fresh mould growth
  - o Powdery, hairy growth on the surface of the artwork
  - o Usually white or dark grey
- Holes, tears, dents, chips
  - o Big obvious holes in a board
  - o Usually from an accident
  - o Parts broken off a wood carving
- Damage from bugs
  - o Termite holes in wood carving or frame
  - o Fresh holes will have dust/sand from the bugs around them
- Paint is flaking off or powdery when touched or moved

**Items infested by bugs need to be isolated so they don't contaminate the rest of the collection.**

#### **Reminder: Good storage looks like:**

- Clean, no dust or rubbish
- Good airflow to stop it getting too damp
- Objects not in direct sunlight and no direct sunlight in the storage area

- Accurate and clear labels on shelves/cabinets
- Using tissue/Tyvek to layer between artworks and no heavy artworks on top of any other object
- Oddly shaped objects are supported with foam/pillow so they don't slide around in drawers when drawers are open and all edges are protected from stress that might cause breakage
- Good documentation area
- Regular, standard housekeeping routine