

Indigenous Arts



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How Can We Change our Western Perspectives?

- Objects should stay as authentic as possible
- Vs.
- Objects are meant to be used

Agents of Decay (most of them)

- Physical Forces – outdoor structures
- Fire – wood, textile, etc.
- Pests – wood, textile, etc.
- Light – fading of pigment
- Incorrect Humidity – wood, textile, paper, etc.
- Thieves and Vandals – small artworks, outdoor works
- Water – wood, textile, paper, etc.
- Pollutants – outdoor works
- Incorrect Temperature – outdoor works

Dissociation

- Active matter
- Many reasons for dissociation:
 - Unknown origin
 - Loss of tradition
 - Object being cared for improperly



Wampum Belts

- Hiawatha, consolation, confederation
 - Theft and repatriation
- Items denied their use, is a replica good enough?



Art in use?

Should we reconsider how we treat artefacts of 'western' origin as well?
Why should or shouldn't we let things be put to use or let them change?

Northwest Coast Totem Poles



- Made from western red cedar
- Carved then painted
- “Scramble for Northwest Coast Artefacts”
- Perspectives of totem pole acquisition
- “Revival”

Northwest Coast Totem Poles

- Establishing new solutions
- Southeast Alaska Indian Arts Council
- Ketchikan, Alaska
- Strategies for conservation of outdoor poles



What is authenticity anyway?

If it is tradition to re-build a cultural artefact once it decays or degrades, is it still authentic? Is authenticity a valid metric to use in the first place?

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