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BIO

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Timothy Skornia is a Senior Mountmaker in the Antiquities Conservation Department at the Getty Villa. Timothy has 22 years of metal fabrication experience and 12 years in museum mountmaking. He is a certified welder and holds a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute. Timothy currently lives in Los Angeles California with his wife and three children.

ABSTRACT

Mag-cups

This presentation will explore the application of magnetic cups (mag-cups) in short-term exhibitions, focusing on the development and implementation of a magnetic system that allows for adjustable pull strength. This system ensures a secure and efficient mounting solution for quick installations. I will discuss the rigorous testing methods employed during the prototyping phase, which resulted in a reliable and effective mounting solution.

To enhance understanding, I will provide samples of mag-cups with plastic in place of the magnets, allowing attendees to examine the concept firsthand. Recent experiments involving various objects and pressure meters have yielded precise data on the pull strength of magnets through case decks. The mag-cups have garnered positive feedback from recent publications. I will also present a video demonstrating the mag-cups' performance on a shake table, along with footage of their fabrication and testing processes.

We are currently investigating the integration of magnets in 3D-printed structures and the incorporation of ball bearings in interfaces. Preliminary examples may be available for review before the forum. Additionally, I will share findings on the use of nickel-plated beads in exhibition settings. The development of these mag-cups was driven by the need for a versatile mounting system for small, open, and closed vessels. A comprehensive shopping list will be provided to enable attendees to replicate and test the concept independently.

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