

ABSTRACT

Telescopic Slide: A Wall-mount System for Presenting Light and Fragile Objects

Presenter:

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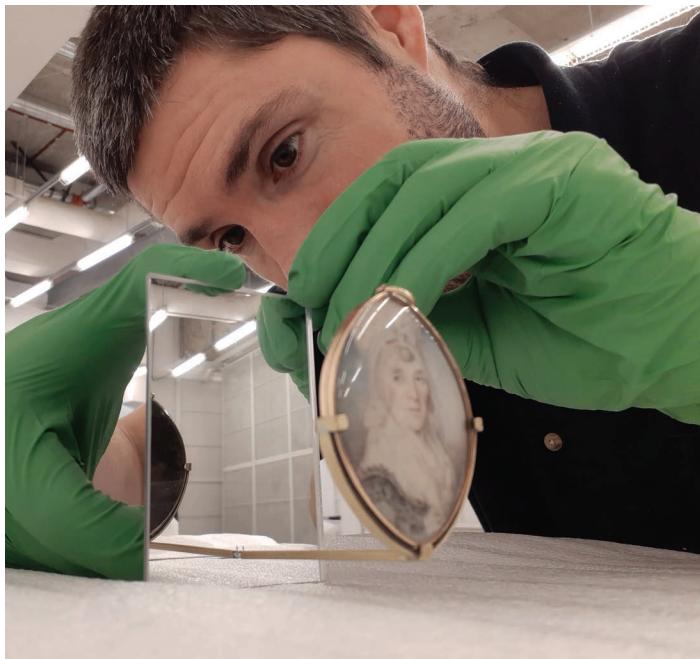
This wall-mount system was designed with the aim of finding a safe and simple way to install daguerreotypes. Owing to their fragility, daguerreotypes can only be displayed for a limited amount of time. Furthermore, annual rotation of the contents of the showcase is required. It was therefore necessary to design adjustable and secure mounts for each object. The prime feature of these devices is that they are reusable: it is possible to install new daguerreotypes of similar format when the works are rotated.

A wall presentation is the preferred design concept for this exhibition. The mounts are made of brass. A structure consisting of rectangular tubes constitutes the backbone of the mounts. These tubes are welded with silver soldering on a flat strip. Adjustable sections fit into the rectangular tubes. These are slides in the form of flat clips. The part of the clip that is inserted into the tube is folded, which allows the resistance of the slide to be controlled. For easy and safe installation, the four upper clips have less resistance than the four lower ones, which support the weight of the object. The sliding system makes it possible to position the clips of the mount according to the natural fold of the hinge of the daguerreotype, which tends to weaken. No set screws are required for the installation, as friction and gravity secure the object in the mount. This case study will be featured in the 3rd edition of the book Mount-making for Museum Objects, by the Canadian Conservation Institute, to be published in 2021.

In the same gallery space, we installed three miniature paintings in another vitrine using the same system, with four clips per object. The hanging rings of these objects were too weak to be used for the wall-mount installation. In this particular case the curator asked me to find a discreet way to have the rings look straight. I made miniature mounts to hold the rings straight in the correct position. Both tubing felt and Volara padding were too big to use on those tiny mounts, so I used several layers of Krylon clear varnish to create a barrier between the mounts and the rings. We are also going to use this system for a contemporary art exhibition scheduled to open in January 2021. As part of the 10th Manif d'art, artist Karen Tam will present a series of wall-mounted papier-mâché plates that are replicas of traditional Chinese porcelain.

The telescopic slide system has proven its worth with daguerreotypes, miniature paintings and even contemporary art. It is now our standard wall-mounting system for light and fragile objects.

BIO



Pierre-Luc Brouillette studied visual arts at Université Laval from 2005 to 2008. During his studies he was attracted to the university's metal workshop, where he also worked as a technician in order to help students with their works. In 2009 Pierre-Luc began working at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec as a contract art handler, and continued his artistic career by participating in multiple exhibitions. In 2015 he obtained a contract as a museology technician at the Musée de la civilisation. He discovered a great passion for mount making while working on the Magical Egypt exhibition, for which he had to make a large batch of mounts for artefacts from ancient Egypt. Back at the MNBAQ in 2016, he took part in the enormous construction project for the Pierre Lassonde Pavilion, which was inaugurated in 2017 with three new permanent galleries and one temporary gallery. This major expansion project also included the creation of a metal workshop and a paint shop, in which he participated. When the Pierre Lassonde Pavilion opened, he was promoted to museology technician on one-year contracts with the MNBAQ that were renewed annually. In 2018, he participated in the complete redevelopment of the five permanent galleries of the Gérard Morisset Pavilion by developing many innovative mount-making solutions. In January 2020 he became a regular employee of the MNBAQ. During the eleven years that he has been working at the Museum Pierre-Luc has worked on several major exhibitions, such as Art and Nature in the Middle Ages, The Golden Age of Couture: Paris and London 1947-1957 and Giacometti. During the installation of Giacometti he had the opportunity to make a mount for the masterpiece The Walking Man.