

Museum coffers communicating cultural heritage and historical childrens and youth drawings

Museum coffers used to present the cultural heritage, arts and traditions with different materials such as drawings, books, and historical objects. This medium is particularly suitable for portraying the complexity and the value for historical childrens and youth drawings and the history of art education.

In this context, the coffers are a didactic medium in which various traditional functions of the MUSEUM context are "condensed" into a singular, portable space, such as collecting and safekeeping, archiving, recording, curating, presenting, staging and imparting. The idea of transportable museum archives developed in the past century from the advent of children's museums. Since years, they are part of preparatory educational material of world heritage sites and are now successfully introduced into the mediation of Memory of the World documents. This medium is now regarded as impressive and successful within the framework of discovering the language of objects and promotes exemplary learning. Museum coffers (or kits, chests, bags, etc.) generally contain selected representative materials (originals, as well as replicas), associated with complete teaching units and creative access, that records important topical themes of the documents they concern. They are lent to schools and other interested institutions, to use as preparation for a museum visit.

Museum coffers are also suitable for schools as a specific teaching medium that can be altered and nuanced according to teaching requirements and changes in the target groups. Further target groups can be approached with selected objects, topics and materials. Museum coffers are in most cases not industrially produced, but rather consist of unique, small archives that have been put together with a great deal of care and enthusiasm. For example, to impart regional cultural heritage, tradition, geographical and biological specialities, the contents can be placed in such a way that it will remain permanently in the memories of the target groups and encourage aesthetic processes.

The Museum Coffers in this exhibition are created as artistic-educational teaching kits by art students of Prof. Jutta Ströter-Bender (University of Paderborn, Germany). They are dedicated for schools and educational institutions in an interdisciplinary and international manner. These fascinating artistic objects and teaching aids are in the traditional mould of curiosity cabinets from the early modern period. By virtue of their particular material character the museum coffer modules provide a sensual, vivid and creative contribution to a widening of "world and artistic knowledge".

Since 2002, the project has achieved an international success with its exhibitions and received important national rewards. The Paderborner Museums Coffers were exhibited at numerous museums and world sites, so 2012 und 2015 in UNESCO Building, Paris.

Visit the digital Museum Coffers Archive

Further informations about the Paderborn Museum Coffers, with comprehensive graphic, text material, catalogue:

<http://groups.uni-paderborn.de/stroeter-bender/>