Hidden Treasures of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
What is conservation?

Conservation is a profession dedicated to the long-term preservation of artistic, historic, and cultural materials.
Detail of the grasshopper location in the painting. (Photo by David Cattarin)
Lion, 325 B.C.E.
Pentelic marble
Diagram of the major fractures in the sculpture. The black hole indicates where the sculpture was drilled to break into three pieces, to make it easier to move from its excavation site in Athens, Greece at the time of its rediscovery.
Materials & Identification

- Bolt & screwdriver blade
- Ferrous metal rod (likely steel)
- Iron strap
- Plaster-filled pipe
- Bolt & screwdriver blade
- Pipe
- Bolt & screwdriver blade
Copper Alloy (brass or bronze – would require testing to confirm exactly which)

Dowel rod with “ragging”, or notches created with a hacksaw that allow the plaster to grab hold of the surface and create a stronger hold.

Unknown object or function within the original conservation – possibly a crowbar that was reshaped.
Reassembled sculpture with the new armature, ready to have the legs reconstructed and be refilled.
Reassembled sculpture, fully reconstructed and filled and ready to be painted to match the patina.
Ceremonial Necklace for Nandi Sculpture
19th century
Silver with rubies
Rudruksha seeds

Jasmine buds

Rudruksha seeds

Kirtimukha or “Face of Glory”
Rubies under UV light
Inner Coffin of Meret-it-es
ca. 380-250 B.C.E.
Wood, pigment, gesso, and gilding
Ushebti of Meret-it-es
ca. 380-250 B.C.E.
Faience
Mound Magician, 1997
Radcliffe Bailey
Paint, canvas, paper, wood, cardboard, cloth, Plexiglas, baseballs, feathers, and other media on plywood
We are closed to the public right now, but you can view artworks and interactives online at: www.nelson-atkins.org