

In 1911, the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts (known today as the Everson) made history as the first museum in the country to declare that it would focus on collecting works made by American artists. This decision, implemented by Museum Director Fernando Carter, was the first of many made by directors that ultimately defined the Everson's collection as it exists today. Legacy of Firsts, an exhibition currently on view at the Everson, examines over one hundred years of the Museum's collecting, from the Museum's earliest in 1911 through today.

You can learn a lot about a museum by looking at what kinds of objects it collects.

*What if you could start your own museum collection?
What objects would you collect?
Why would you choose them?
What do they have in common and how are they different?*



Activity 1: Draw Your Collection

Make a list of 5 objects you would like to include in your collection

Explain why you chose those objects

How do those objects represent the central focus of your museum?

Using a piece of paper and a pencil, draw what each object looks like. Objects can be imaginary or from real life.

Activity 2: At Home Collection

Look around your room, your home, and your nearby outdoor surroundings.

Search for 5 objects that you would like to include in your collection.

How do those objects relate to each other? How are they similar? How are they different?

Find a space to display your objects. How might you arrange them in the space?

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