

NO FOOD Video

Screenplay/Script by Melissa King and Hutomo Wicaksono

Preventive Conservator talking with white background (possibly from green screen) with animations/photograph cut-outs in the background illustrating what she is talking about.

Preventive Conservator: I am here to discuss some ways we work in the museum to preserve our artwork....

You may see signs outside of the galleries (*illustration of no-food sign/photo of sign outside the Sackler*) that tell you not to bring food or drink inside, or somebody may have told you not to do that at some point, but do you know why exactly we have a no food and drink policy (*animation of food being eaten and then crossed out*)?

One of the more obvious reasons is that we don't want people to spill drinks or get food onto the artwork that can be permanently damaging (*animation of coffee spilling on sculpture and the sculpture opens its eyes in surprise*).

(Shares a story about finding food or drink spills on objects in the gallery with *photos of food damage to artwork*).

A less obvious reason we restrict food and drink in the galleries is that crumbs and drips can be an attractant for pests. (*illustration of pest seeing some food and getting excited*). Just like in our own homes we want to keep pests out. Not just because some of us find them unsightly, but there is a risk of them eating and damaging the artwork (*illustration of pest seeing some artwork and getting hungry*).

There are certain types of pests that enjoy eating paper (*image of pest damage on paper*), eating wood (*pest damage on wood*), eating fur and feathers (*pest damage on fur and feathers*), eating textiles (*textile damage*), starches and glues in paintings and other artworks (*more photos*), and even non-insect pests such as mice are interested in gathering materials from collection items for nestmaking (*photos*). If food is available near the artwork in the galleries, it might initially draw pests in that could then turn their attention to the artwork or die and become an attractant for the types of insects that can really do damage.

Group of people from different departments at the same time: Be part of the team and keep the gallery clean!

POSSIBLE SECOND PART OF VIDEO (I think the first part can live on its own if necessary)

Second person: How interesting! I didn't realize that pests were a big part of the reason behind the no food and drink policies. Fortunately, I am a very careful eater so I don't make a mess.

Preventive conservator: Would you be interested in helping me run an experiment on that?

Second person: why not! Does it involve a snack?

Preventive conservator: Do you like cookies?

Second person: How do we begin?

Preventive conservator and second person walk into a science lab with a big white table, a tray of cookies and various snacks, and a microscope nearby... preventive conservator is all of a sudden wearing science PPE (goggles, lab coat)

Preventive conservator: for this experiment, I would like to see you eat a cookie over this table without creating any crumbs. We will then use the microscope to evaluate your success!

Experiment happens... maybe include a few different people attempting it. Microscopic image shows crumbs... animation of insect coming up to crumb and getting excited.

Preventive conservator: This is also true for candy wrappers and food packaging. Shall we have a look and see what remains on them?

Look at candy wrapper under microscope to show food residue.

Remember! This is a team effort and we need to work together to keep pests out of our galleries.

Be part of the team and keep our galleries clean!