Care of Basketry
In Museum Collections

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Museum of Anthropology at UBC
A place of world arts + cultures
Students and Interns
Collections Access
Wet Site
Caring for Basketry

Consider

1. Materials

2. Construction

3. History of use
Basketry Materials

ORGANIC

• Plant Materials: roots, bark, stems, leaves and grasses
• Animal Materials: quills, feather, skin, baleen
• Resins, plastics

INORGANIC

• Metal
• Ceramic
• Glass
• Stone
Basketry Construction

Harvest

Processing
Basketry Techniques

PLAITING
COILING
TWINNING
Decorative Elements
Imbrication
Beading
Damage

Multiple Sources

Models of Damage
Agents of Deterioration (CCI)

- Physical Forces
- Fire
- Pests
- Light
- Incorrect Relative Humidity
- Thieves and Vandals
- Water
- Pollutants
- Incorrect Temperature
- Dissociation
Physical deterioration:

- Swelling and shrinking
- Decreased moisture regain
- Previous treatments - washing, oiling
Physical Forces
Storage/Display and Handling Mounts
Packing for Storage or Travel
Exhibition Mounts
Pests

Biological Deterioration - mould, fungus, bacteria, insects, rodents
IPM

• Freeze/Anoxia

• Monitor

• Housekeeping
Light Damage

MOA A9263 a-b
MVG Rotation
Pollutants

Dust
A Cautionary Tale
Other Pollutants
Storage
Incorrect Humidity

Low

High
Silica Gel
Emergency Plan
Basket Treatment

When does a basket need intervention?

• When the current condition is causing further deterioration

• Danger of dissociation

• Before going on exhibition
Dry Cleaning
Cleaning
Wet Cleaning
Re-Shaping
Humidification
Support
Repair Materials

Adhesives

Wheat Starch Paste

Carboxy Methyl Cellulose

PVA – Jade 403

Lascaux
Patches, Supports

Japanese Tissue

Embroidery Thread

Imitation Sinew
Repair
Twisted Strand
Repair

Embroidery

Thread
Repair

Traditional Repairs