



CONDITION AND TREATMENT REPORT

Date: 23 August 2018

Acc./Loan no: 2012-18-43

Object: wig

People; Country: Tukolor or Wolof artist; Senegal

Materials: dyed raffia

Reason for conservation report:

50th Anniversary Gallery, 2014

Good as Gold exhibit, 2018



DESCRIPTION

Wig of raffia fiber, tightly wound, coiled and braided, tapering into a curved crescent on either side of wig to frame the face. Various lengths of twisted and braided coil ties are present to keep the wig in place or assist in sewing it to the hair. Dyed black.

1940s-1950s

H x W x D: 4.5 x 47 x 0.5 cm (1.75 x 18.5 x 3/8 in.)

CONDITION

(Janelle Batkin-Hall, 23 August 2018)

Wig is in very good structural condition. Ends of the ties are slightly fraying. Wig is slumping and is misshapen. Central loop that holds a tie to the main structure is frayed and stretched. Monitor acidity of the black dye.

(DMoffett, 5 August 2014)

The wig is in excellent condition though the tight weaving causes the sides to twist. The condition should be monitored over time as the black dye may be acidic.

PROPOSED TREATMENT

Lightly vacuum to remove any surface dust. Locally humidify. Create custom housing to reshape and support the object.

TREATMENT

(Janelle Batkin-Hall, 24 September 2018)

1. Performed a dye solubility test (see **Analysis**).

2. In preparation for localized humidification, a Dorfman mannequin head was wrapped in plastic cling film and the wig was placed on the head.
3. Locally humidified the top of the wig for 45 minutes using damp blotters and felted Gore-tex. The wig was dried overnight sandwiched between dry blotters, and under bean bag weights, which allowed the wig to conform to the shape of the head. Humidification was repeated five times.

(DMoffett, 4 August 2014)
None at this time.

Photographic Documentation

Digital BT

Exhibition Recommendations

Exhibition Record:

"Good As Gold: Fashioning Senegalese Women", NMAfA: October 2018 to September 2019.

NMAfA, First Level North Galleries (1130-1134): February 2015 to August 2017.

ANALYSIS

Dye Solubility

Placed one drop of distilled water on blotter paper and gently pressed it against the backside of the wig near the PL curved crescent for 15 seconds. A dark blue color appeared on the blotter paper.

Care must be taken during localized humidification not to over saturate blotters with water; monitor the wig regularly during humidification; do not leave blotters and Gore-tex on the object longer than 45 minutes; dry the wig between sheets of dry blotter and a light weight (replace the damp blotters with dry blotters, as needed).

Dye Characterization

DART Analysis:

A small fiber of black dyed raffia taken from an inconspicuous area on the back of the wig. Dr. G. Asher Newsome at MCI carried out DART analysis on 17 November 2018. The black dye was confirmed to be indigo and the reduced form of indigo (in low abundance). Although the analysis was not quantitative, indigo may not be the primary colorant. Most of the signal arose from the raffia material itself. Please see Dr. Newsome's full report.