

Different people, different working methods. Sometimes conservators are present from the moment the artwork is being unpacked until it hangs on the wall; sometimes they only supervise unpacking, condition check the artwork and then hand it over to the art handling team for installation.

Particularly in the latter case, great communication between conservators and art handlers is crucial. To prevent artworks from being installed without being first condition checked, a colleague of mine once had the brilliant idea of using visual references.

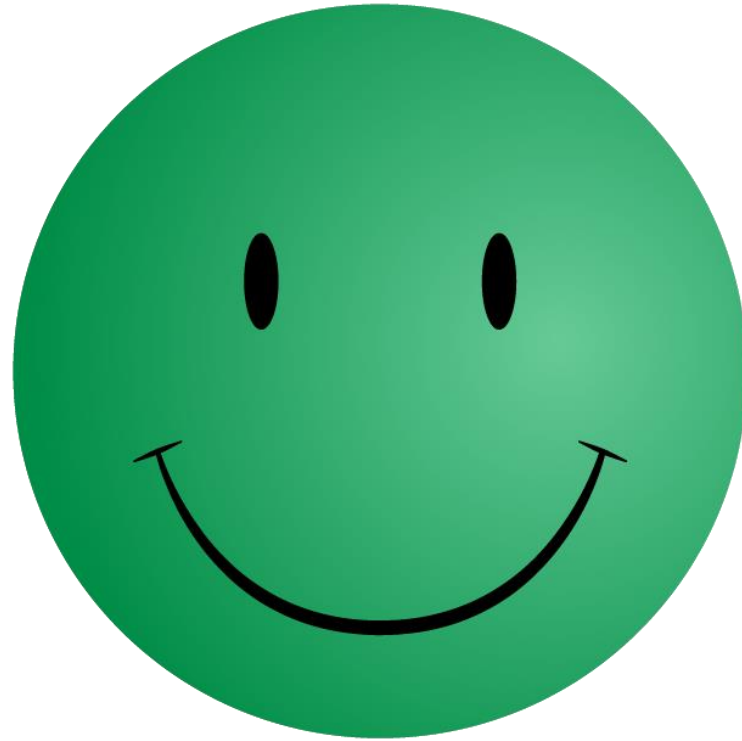


A green smiley placed next to the artwork meant that the conservator had documented its condition and the work could be installed.



A “stop” sign placed next to the artwork meant that the condition protocol was not completed yet and the work was not released for installation.

The same principle could be applied at the end of the exhibition, if the conservator could not be present during packing. The green smiley would indicate that the condition of the artwork had been checked and the art handling team could proceed with packing. The “stop” sign meant that the conservator still had to protocol the artwork and this was therefore not released for packing.



CONDITION CHECKED



NOT CONDITION CHECKED