



PRESS RELEASE

A Treasured Collection

22 December 2012 – 1 September 2013

A Treasured Collection an exuberant and eclectic installation of 'mini museums' opens at the V&A Museum of Childhood on 22 December

Museums collect, cherish and display objects of cultural, historical and artistic importance. On a small scale many of us also collect, creating our own personal assemblage of significant objects, memories and keepsakes to preserve our past and inform our future.



What we consider valuable can be highly individual and varied from the truly mundane to the extremely precious. The things we keep reveal much about what we consider to be the 'important stuff' in life. Objects can provide a way of holding on to intangible memory.

'A Treasured Collection' has been made with adults from Toynbee Hall Luncheon Club and Kuverum Museum Switzerland (on a Museum study tour), students from Tower Hamlets College, and children from Tower Hamlet's Cayley and St John's Primary Schools and Halkevi Kurdish Turkish Community Centre Supplementary School in Hackney. Their personal 'enshrined' stories provide an insight into the private art of collecting.

The exhibition also features an installation by Jasleen Kaur who creates objects that traverse cultural boundaries and subvert traditional notions of use and a 'sound collection' by beatboxer Jason Singh.

Also on display is 'Recollection' a reconstruction of hundreds of things donated to the Museum between 1985 and 2011 by Mary Kempson and her son, Steve Dimon. Recollection has brought together the dispersed objects for the first time. Creating the reconstruction has prompted a process of remembering. Seeing the things together again, Steve and Mary have suggested ways that the museum collection and the domestic collection are not so different. Both bridge the desires to remember and forget, and provide a home for the things most important to us.

ENDS

Note to Editors

Jason Singh

Human beatboxer and sound sculptor Jason Singh with photographer Eloi have created a sound and film installation that captures the 'sounds of collecting' with adults and children taking part in the project. www.thesinghthing.com

Jasleen Kaur 'OH MY GODS'

Jasleen Kaur re-fashions objects for new purposes, creating objects that traverse cultural boundaries and subvert traditional notions of use. This display presents a series of embroidered tea towel fabrics from India and the UK, depicting images of her 'modern day' Gods. www.jasleenkaur.info

V&A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA

Admission free. Open daily: 10.00 – 17.45, last admission 17.30

Nearest tube: Bethnal Green. 24 hour information: 020 8983 5235

Switchboard: 020 8983 5200 Website: www.museumofchildhood.org.uk