

Hands on...

Culture Shock!

This opportunity has been a wonderful experience because it has helped us gain knowledge about foreign cultures through art. Experiencing new art was very interesting and inspiring. We were surprised at the numerous types and styles of art from such different places in the world.

Upon arriving at the Ralph T. Coe Foundation, we were asked to choose pieces of art that spoke to us, giving us the urge to learn more. When you research things, usually you have to read or look at them through books, pictures, and the Internet, but instead, we learned about the objects by first “seeing” them. We learned more about these items by holding and observing them; the objects drew out questions from our curious minds, sending us on a journey to seek out multiple resources for more information. Two of our resources were places—the Museum of International Folk Art where we learned how to put together an exhibition and where we realized all the little details matter. The second was visiting a collector’s home, where we learned about the passion of collecting. We learned that the objects that attract us tend to be the objects we collect because they bring out our curiosity. On this journey we went to Africa, Fiji, New Guinea, Asia, Indonesia, and the Ivory Coast. Despite the lack of information available for some of the pieces we chose, we were still able to draw conclusions about them, as well as learn about the cultures that made them. Join in our journey and experience the different cultures through their artwork, too.

—Ashley Barrows, Oscar Loya, Manpreet Sandhu, and Alexis Willis
Ralph T. Coe Foundation Student Curators