Most art groups that visit the Pitt Rivers come to draw and expect to leave with a selection of high-quality studies for future reference. This section looks at a range of materials and techniques that can be used in the Museum. It is designed to help students explore the varied and exciting ways of recording through drawing and making.
What, no charcoal?

The materials that can be used in the Museum are limited to ensure the safety of the collections, but there are still many approaches that artists can utilise. Not all rely on pencils and paper.

Consider bringing some of these materials:
- Pencils (very soft to very hard)
- Coloured pencils (including white)
- Fine-liner pens
- Biros
- Coloured paper and card (including black)
- Tissue paper
- Collage materials (fabric, pipe cleaners, string, etc.)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks (water-based)
- Staplers

On the following pages there are examples of how these mixed media have been used to record objects in the Museum.
White pencil on black paper

Throwing knife, Democratic Republic of Congo

HB pencil

Barkcloth, (top row from left to right) Hawai'i, Nicaragua, Taveuni Island, Fiji

Collage + coloured pencil
Mask, Papua New Guinea

soft pencil

Pots, various countries

biro

3D collage

black pencil

paper shapes
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Page 5: Handstitched mola, Panama (1924.46.65).
Page 7: Head ornament of macaw feathers. Achuar, Peru (1945.7.25).
Page 8: Throwing knife, Democratic Republic of Congo (1908.65.2).
Page 9: Barkcloth, (top row from left to right) Hawaii, Nicaragua, Taveuni Island Fiji (1886.1.1203, 1908.5.36, 1914.56.23, bottom row 1914.56.34, 1884.87.82).
Page 10: Mask. Papua New Guinea (1906.74.1).