BEING A COLLECTION INTERN

BY: LINDSEY ROARK
INTRODUCTION

My names is Lindsey Roark. I’m a business management major with an art minor at the University of Memphis. This fall will be my second semester as a junior. Thanks to Studio Institute I was given the opportunity to intern with the Metal Museum in their curatorial department for the past 9 weeks.
"The Metal Museum is the only institution in the United States devoted exclusively to the advancement of the art and craft of fine metalwork. This is achieved through exhibitions, collections, conservation, restoration and consulting services, classes, internship opportunities, artist residencies and apprenticeships, research and onsite fabrication of artwork and architectural elements."

Photo courtesy of Metal Museum
My project was to identify, catalog, and store 40 objects in the museum’s collection.

Donation from Kenneth Lynch and Sons in 1987-89.

Kenneth Lynch had collected an assortment of tools over his metalsmithing career, totaling to 500 tons in late 1980s.
Kenneth Lynch & Sons is an ornamental metal company that produces urban seating, estate elements, and Florentine classics.

Located in Oxford, Connecticut and owned by Kenneth Lynch’s granddaughter, Maria Lynch Dumoulin.

Lynch’s career started when he join the U.S Cavalry.

He began doing armor, ornamental metal commissions, and repair jobs.

Inside the Collection: Kenneth Lynch Tool Collection

Photos courtesy of Kenneth Lynch & Sons’ website ‘Our History’ page and Facebook page.
My first two weeks were spent researching and gather information about the objects, Kenneth Lynch, and his company.

Part of the collection had been recorded back in 1989 and 1997.

A few objects were obvious, but I wanted to provide detailed names.

A few objects harder to identify such as the Recingle.
The Metal Museum has a series called Tributaries, where they support four underrepresented and under-recognized metal artists with solo exhibitions each year.

Took down Tributaries: Jill Baker Gower and installed the exhibit Tributaries: Monica Coyne.

This was an opportunity I am very grateful for because it allowed me to get hands-on experience with handling artwork along with preparing pedestals and walls for an exhibit.
I did condition reports for all 40 pieces in the Kenneth Lynch Tool Collection.

A condition report is used to track an object’s health.

The condition report is a necessary step in cataloging a permanent collection object.

I saw that a few of our pieces were missing things that an old condition report had reported present.

An example of this would be the 2-prong agricultural fork.
MARKING

- Crucial step is to place semi-permanent accession numbers on the objects.
- This allows for easier tracking of the objects in a collection.
- Twenty-three of the pieces had been cataloged before and assigned accession numbers.
- This allowed me to learn how to mark and assign accession numbers to objects in the museum.
I spent finalizing the spreadsheets, blog posts, and packing the objects away. Since a few of the objects are oddly shaped, Brooke thought it would be best if we made custom boxes. We organized some of the bigger pieces together, Kevin created lids, bottoms, and trays for 7 boxes.
THANK YOU!

ANY QUESTIONS?