**Object Analysis**

Purpose:

Use this process to unearth a wealth of information by systematically analysing an object to reveal cultural and historical information. It can be used as an individual study process or as a group exercise.

Museum object number and title or brief description:

General

* Why do you visit a museum or gallery?
* Is there a difference between seeing an object in a book or on a computer screen and seeing the actual object in a museum or gallery?
* Why have you chosen this particular object? Does it evoke personal memories?

Use your knowledge of design, social and cultural history and available resources to determine the following:

* Its function
* Likely date of manufacture and when it was in common use.
* How was it made and what is it made from? Consider its size, weight, portability, ergonomics.
* Consumer/audience/user
* Find advertisements or other promotional material for this or similar contemporary objects.
* Has it won any awards and can it be attributed to a particular designer or manufacturer?
* Appeal of the item. Consider its desirability/aesthetic appeal
* Significance. Did the production of this item mark any significant developments in design, technology or changes in social or political attitudes? – Use library, museum and online resources to put the item in its relevant contexts.
* What has been written about this item? – reviews, articles, books.

Group Activity

Write a detailed description of the appearance of the object without stating its purpose.  Share your description with other students and ask them to draw what is described and/or decide on its purpose.