

Museum Etiquette

Eyes Only, Please!

I saw a thing of beauty
I couldn't believe my eyes
I reached out with my hand
To touch and then – surprise!

The object started speaking
Softly, just a trace
It said it understood
The beauty of its face.

Its golden bronze was sculpted
As if angels had been there
When artists toiled and craftsmen carved
With effort, skill and care.

“That’s not true beauty,”
The object said to me,
“Look deep inside and there you’ll find
The beauty of my history.”

“Through the ages I have lived,
Many people I have seen,
I can tell you much of life
And of things that once have been.”

So now you know the secret
Of where beauty truly lies,
Found not when touched by a hand
But seen only with the eyes.”

Because museums like the Henry Plant Museum house and care for many old and fragile objects, even the slightest touch can be harmful. Therefore, we ask that *everyone*, children and adults, ***touch only with their eyes***. Food, drink and chewing gum are not allowed inside. All backpacks will be checked with the volunteer at the front door (make sure all items are labeled with the student’s name in advance). Cameras are welcome, but please turn off the flash. It is important that the school provides at least one adult chaperone for each group. The adults will be responsible for keeping students under control at all times.

Thank you for helping us preserve history!