

Creating an Interactive Display and 3D Scanning the Collection at the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum

This summer, I worked with Genny LeMoine and Susan Kaplan to create a digital display for a kiosk destined for the Peary-Macmillan Arctic Museum foyer. Under their guidance, I curated a group of 40 objects in the Museum's collections to demonstrate the many ways that Inuit cultures use animal parts as materials for art and survival in the Arctic.

I spent almost three weeks learning how to use Bowdoin's 3D scanner to digitize the objects and taught myself how to edit the 3D renderings in Blender. David Israel from the Bowdoin Maker's space generously guided me through the scanning and editing process. Unfortunately, a bulb in the scanner broke early in the summer and the repair was time consuming. The Maker's Space had another scanner for larger items, so I continued on to create draft scans for the rest of the objects. Once the small scanner returns from Luxembourg this fall the scans will be completed.

The rest of my time was dedicated to researching Inuit hunting, crafting, and artistic culture and practices. I wrote short descriptive and educational labels for each object that fell into one of five categories. The "homescreen" of the display allows viewers to choose between caribou, narwhal, polar bear, walrus, and whale pathways. After the viewer clicks the animal they want, they will be guided through a range of objects beginning with unaltered animal materials to tools and artworks made out of bones, ivory, and fur.

I designed the branching structure of the kiosk for viewers to easily navigate and for the museum curators to easily add or modify the kiosk in the coming years. For now, it will serve as a great interactive experience for all museum visitors and allows the museum to showcase more of its collection. This will especially be helpful while the third floor gallery is closed to prepare for new temporary exhibitions. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum. I look forward to using the digital, curatorial, and label writing skills I gained this summer in the future.