

Exceptional objects in exceptional display cases

Even the most unusual and delicate textile artefacts can be seen in the permanent Palmwood Wreck exhibition. This is really unique, due to the fact that textiles are so fragile that museums do not generally display them for more than 3–6 months in a row. Thanks to oxygen-free display cases, specially made for these objects, it is possible for the Palmwood Wreck finds to be on permanent display at Museum Kaap Skil.

Oxygen-free

Research has proved oxygen and light to be the most important causes of textile deterioration. But an exhibition without light is impossible. Due to the fact that textiles do not appear to deteriorate faster in oxygen-free conditions than in a depot, the decision was made to display textile finds from the Palmwood Wreck in oxygen-free display cases, in nitrogen. Humidity in the display cases is also monitored.

Internationally unique

Oxygen-free display cases are used in exceptional circumstances for extremely fragile and unique objects. The United States Declaration of Independence is kept in an oxygen-free display case, for example. However, the size of the display cases at Museum Kaap Skil are of quite a different magnitude. Oxygen-free display cases of this size are not found anywhere else in the world!

Made-to-measure

The display cases for the artefacts from the Palmwood Wreck have been made-to-measure for the objects on display. Showpiece of the exhibition, the almost completely intact preserved silk dress, can be admired from all sides in an enormous, round display case. The lighting in the exhibition hall is subdued so that the fragile textile is exposed to a maximum of 50 lux. When more light is necessary, for example for cleaning purposes, the display cases are covered with a made-to-measure light resistant cover.

Safe

There is light overpressure in the airtight display cases. Under each display case is a control system which maintains constant levels of nitrogen supply and

humidity in the display case. All of the precautionary measures guarantee a safe environment for the fragile textile finds, enabling them to be viewed without the risk of accelerated deterioration. Unique display cases for unique objects!

