



## **New exhibition showcasing never-before-seen objects from the Museum archives.**

[www.sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au](http://www.sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au)

To mark the Sydney Jewish Museum's 25th anniversary and to celebrate 25 years of collecting, the Museum is launching a new temporary exhibition **'Unseen Untold: Our Curious Collection'**. The Curators have gone behind the scenes, delved into the archive and will showcase 25 never-before-seen precious and quirky objects, each with a unique story.

The Sydney Jewish Museum's collection of 9,000 artefacts lies at the heart of the institution, and shapes and informs its exhibitions, research and educational and public programs. However, only a small fraction of this material is on display at any one time.

The Museum's Curators Roslyn Sugarman, Shannon Biederman and Rachel Mensforth are taking the opportunity to lift the lid on the incredibly rich archive that they work with every day, and delight visitors in an exclusive peek-in. They will be revealing some undiscussed, unexplored, unique and unusual stories that are housed within the collection.

### **The Collection**

The Sydney Jewish Museum's collection began with the Australian Association of Holocaust Survivors. They canvassed their members, looking for objects to form the new museum in the early 1990s. Each item they accessioned into the collection became a touchstone to an individual's story. From its humble beginnings, the collection has grown beyond the survivor community to include a significant number of objects relating to Judaism and Australian Jewish history.

The collection has a diverse range of objects, documents, photographs, memorabilia and testimony. Whilst there is a Collection Policy to guide the curators, it is not an exact science; more often than not the curators find themselves overlooking artistic aesthetics or rarity, seeking instead the story of the item – that which transforms an inanimate object into a conduit of narrative.

### **The Museum's Collecting Campaign**

As the window of opportunity is diminishing for collecting undiscovered material from Holocaust survivors and their descendants, the Sydney Jewish Museum is embarking on a collecting campaign. Roslyn Sugarman, Head Curator says "We believe there is still an abundance of material in community hands at risk of remaining undiscovered, and our imperative is to collect now".

One of the core functions of the Museum is to preserve material culture, stories and histories for future generations. It is the collection that drives exhibitions, research, and educational and public programs.

**Prepare to be moved, provoked and enlightened.**

**Unseen Untold: Our Curious Collection** will be open until October 2018. Entry to the exhibition is included in the general Museum admission fee.

**For images and interviews, please contact Kate Efrat or Ilana Heller on 9360 7999, 0410 522 339 or [marketing@sjm.com.au](mailto:marketing@sjm.com.au)**