

Preserving Ancient Art

Please do not touch this bear.

Carved from marble, this statue may seem indestructible, but even the slightest touch can damage it. The natural oils and acids on your fingers will stain and darken the stone. Help us preserve the works of art in the Museum for future generations to enjoy. Please do not touch the sculptures. Thank you!



Bear
Roman, A.D. 100–125
Marble
72.AA.125



To show how dirty the marble had become from casual touching, conservators took this photograph after cleaning the upper half of the bear's outstretched paw.