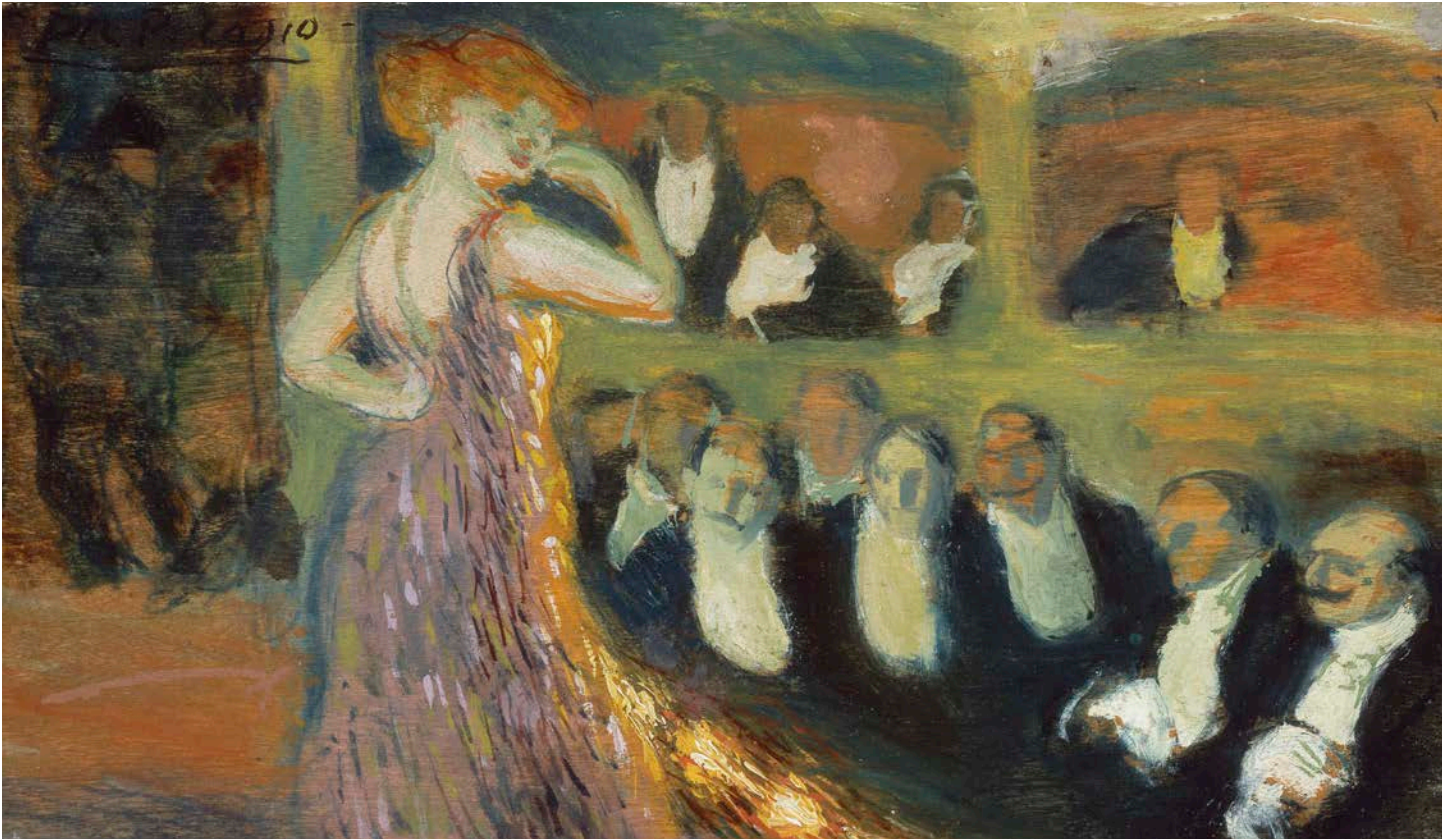


# Tiny Treasures



Museum of Fine Arts Boston





1970.475 Pablo Picasso, *Stuffed Shirts (Les Plastrons)*, 1900. Oil on panel.  
13.6 x 22.5 cm. Gift of Mrs. Charles Sumner Bird (Julia Appleton Bird).  
© 2018 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

# Tiny Treasures

**Curator** Courtney Harris  
Curatorial Research Fellow, Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Art of Europe  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

**Number of objects** Approximately 70

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# Tiny Treasures



2009.2419 Bicycle brooch, possibly by Streeter & Co. Ltd. (English), mid-1890s.  
Gold, enamel, diamond (old brilliant cuts), and ruby. 4 x 6.5 x 1 cm.  
Museum purchase with funds donated anonymously.

Tiny is trendy: with tiny houses and minimalist movements encouraging people to live in smaller spaces with fewer belongings, small objects are attracting new attention. The MFA's encyclopedic collection offers rich holdings in small, precious objects, and the exhibition highlights miniature works of art across a range of media, including paintings, precious metals and gems, ceramics, and drawings, among others. Often overlooked, smaller works of art can be masterpieces in their own right. Through this global collection of objects from antiquity to the 20th century, the exhibition introduces visitors to a wide variety of techniques, styles, and cultures.

“Tiny Treasures” explores the idea of miniaturization in art and how artists and artisans play with our perception of size and scale. Themes of the exhibition include personal adornment and wearable fashions, symbols of style and social prestige, commemorative and powerful keepsakes, religious and powerful objects, and surprisingly small masterpieces of painting. The carefully selected objects allow visitors to learn about craftsmanship and virtuosity on a small scale, looking at the incredible amount of detail and skill needed to execute small masterpieces—often more demanding than their larger counterparts. The portable nature of small objects allowed owners and wearers to carry them with them, a constant sign of religious devotion, style, or wealth.

**Final object checklist pending approval.**

# Tiny Treasures



1996.130a–b Philippe Starck for Vitra International AG, miniature of Louis 20 chair and crate, 1992. Blown polypropylene body; aluminum rear legs. 14 x 8 x 9.4 cm (chair); 16 x 10.1 x 11.1 cm (crate). Gift of Vitra Design Museum. © Starck Network.

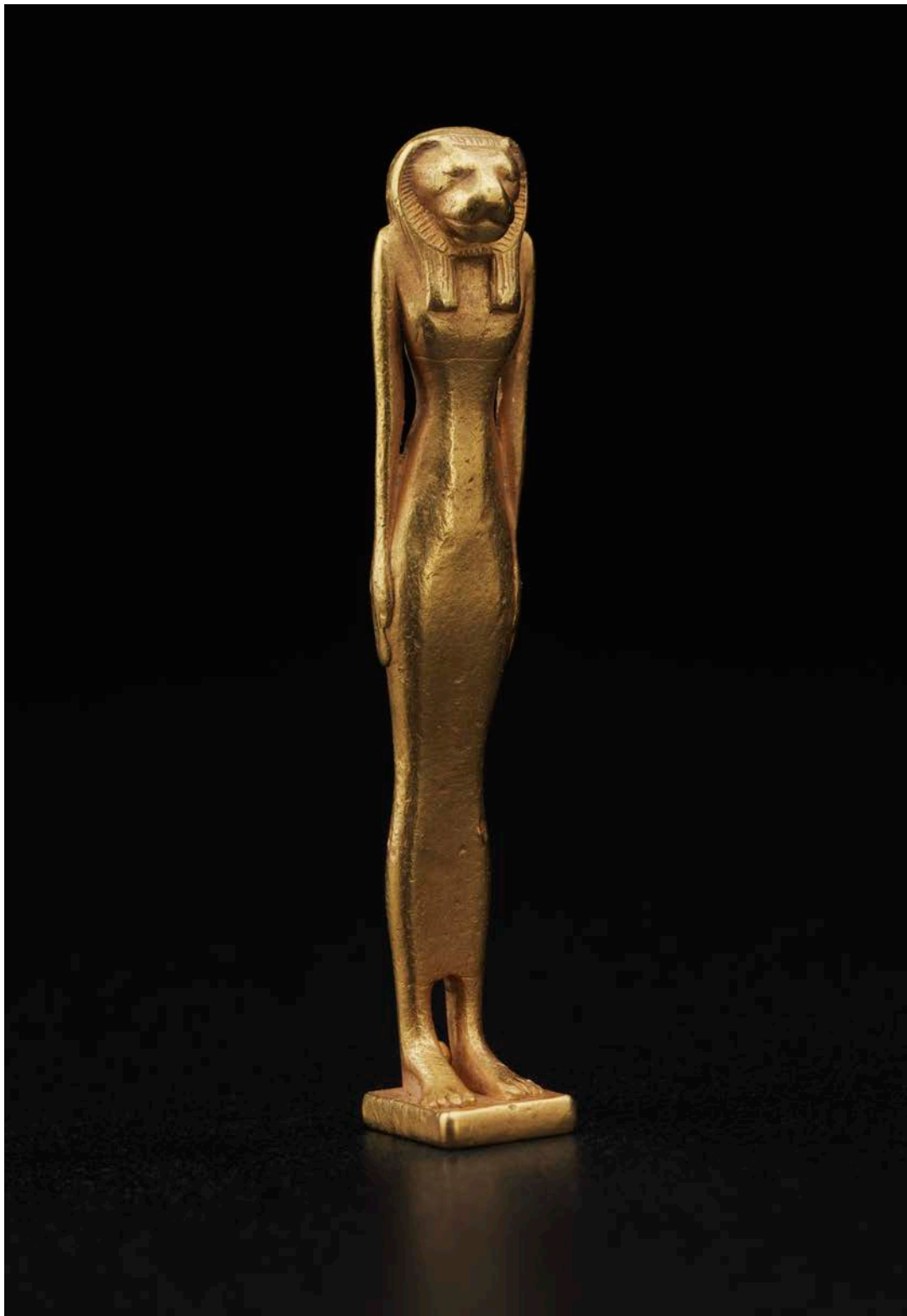


## Tiny Treasures



49.1785 Miniature commode, workshop of Peter Carl Fabergé (Russian), 19th century.  
Gold, nephrite. 5.71 cm. Gift of Mrs. Albert J. Beveridge in memory of Delia Spencer Field.

## Tiny Treasures



23.335 Bastet amulet inscribed for Pamay, Egyptian, Third Intermediate Period, Dynasty 24, 724–712 BC. Gold. 4.7 x 0.8 x 1 cm. Harvard University—Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition.

## Tiny Treasures



23.493 Léon Victor Dupré, *Water Meadows and Cattle*, 19th century.  
Oil on panel. 8.9 x 15.8 cm. Bequest of Ernest Wadsworth Longfellow.



## Tiny Treasures



47.1450a–b Triptych pendant depicting martyrdom of Saint Barbara, Mary Magdalen, and Saint Gereon, German, 1504. Basse-taille enamel and gilding on silver. 7.2 x 6.3 x 0.7 cm (open). 1941 Purchase Fund.



# Tiny Treasures



2006.251 Ron Ho, *TV Guide*, 1992. Silver, patinated copper, polymer clay; silk cord. 10.8 x 10.8 x 2.5 cm.  
The Daphne Farago Collection. Reproduced with permission.

## Tiny Treasures



64.628 Micro-mosaic brooch, Italian, 1870–80. Gold and glass. 6.2 x 5.1 x 1.8 cm. Bequest of Maxim Karolik.



## Tiny Treasures



11.23212 Shūōsai Hidemasa, *Clam-shell with the Vindication of Ono No Komachi*, early 19th century. Stained ivory. 3.1 x 4.4 x 3 cm. William Sturgis Bigelow Collection.

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Final object checklist pending approval.

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