

Science Museum Field Trip

Margaret Lowenfeld's 'Wonder Box'

The “Wonder Box” exhibit features toys used by child psychotherapist Margaret Lowenfeld in the 1920s as part of her pioneering “World Technique.” The display includes 32 small objects — people, animals, buildings — originally used in sandplay therapy to help children express emotions through non-verbal communication.



The materiality of the exhibit is tactile and evocative. Though physically simple, the toys represent a deep symbolic function. Seeing them enclosed in a clear case allows viewers to observe the variety of textures, forms, and associations the objects might evoke. Their size and playful form give the impression of a child's world, but the context invites reflection on trauma, memory, and psychological healing.



Personally, I felt a strong emotional response. The objects triggered memories of my own childhood play, but also brought awareness of how such items can be therapeutic tools. The deeper message is one of emotional safety — children are given the freedom to construct meaning and express inner conflict using tangible objects. It is a powerful reminder of how design and play intersect with mental health.



The audience for this exhibit includes young people, parents, educators, and students. It communicates effectively by being visually accessible and emotionally resonant. For my own project, this visit inspired a mobile app concept that digitizes Lowenfeld's idea—allowing users to select digital objects, build scenes, and share personal stories, continuing the therapeutic

legacy in a modern, gamified context.

This exhibit demonstrates how a simple display, when thoughtfully framed, can convey complex emotional and psychological ideas, inviting visitors to reflect on healing, memory, and play. This exhibit has inspired my project's interface design and emotional narrative structure — transforming analog healing into a digital, gamified, and participatory platform.