

Mixed Media Portraits

THE ANNA SAFLEY HOUSTON COLLECTION

LITHOGRAPHY is a printmaking process invented by Alois Senefelder in the late 18th century. It enabled more intricate designs, easier color printing, and a wider range of tones than were previously available. Lithography revolutionized printing



for both artistic and commercial purposes. Images could be reproduced quickly and inexpensively, making it suitable for applications like maps, advertisements, and book illustrations.



HAND-COLORED PHOTOGRAPHY was popular in the days before the invention of color photo film. This portrait shows Anna Houston in a Victorian walnut frame.



Houston Museum
of Decorative Arts

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DAGUERREOTYPES were one of the earliest forms of photography, arriving in America in 1839. The process is named after Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre who perfected and permanently fixed photographic images.



Daguerreotype photos had to be sealed, and elaborately decorated cases became a popular fad in the 1850s and 60s as a means of photographic presentation. Most cases were designed to carry a single portrait on one side, but more unusual examples could display two or more photos together.



OIL PAINTING ON CANVAS portraits are the oldest type of portraiture in the Houston Museum's collection. This charming American portrait dates to 1830.

Anna Safley Houston, pioneering businesswoman and antiques collector, curated a remarkable collection of over 15,000 items, spanning glassware, pottery, textiles, furniture, and much more.

