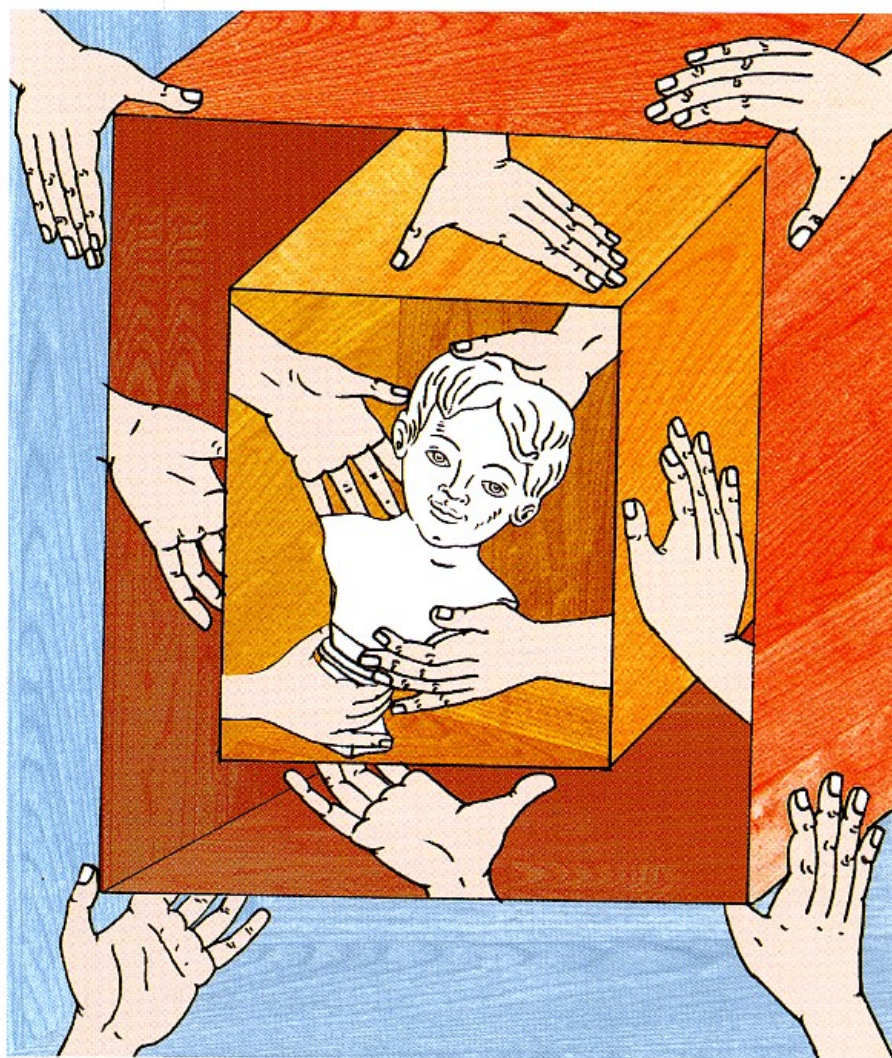


# The Art of Moving Art

Taking proper care of a collection is painstaking, necessary—and best left to professionals.



**I**n January, midtown Manhattan's most renowned club dweller was booted from the King Cole Bar at the St. Regis Hotel on East 55th Street. The barfly in question—the King himself, as portrayed in oil on a three-paneled mural by American illustrator Maxfield Parrish—was shuttled to Rustin Levenson Art Conservation Associates in Chelsea to dry out and clean up. Conservators spent four months removing five decades' worth of dirt, tobacco stains and cocktail splashes from the merry old soul and his retinue.

While the conservation work led by paintings specialist Harriet Irgang was an art unto itself, so, too, was the task of removing the 8-by-30-foot piece from the wall. The six-hour job, which ended with the mural sprung from its immense frame, covered in acid-free paper and rolled around three "sonotubes" in a climate-controlled truck, was handled by Primary Art Services, an august member of the field of "art

