

#ARTILife starts with a single object and a few words

No memoir required.

1 Start with the obvious.

Look around you. What's the first object you find that has a story you'd like to remember?

Cleaning out your attic? Getting ready for the holidays? Moving? Grab your phone and Artifacts as you go for a quick way to build your Artifacts collection.

2 Don't get tripped up by a 'story.'

Whether this is a new story or one you've told a million times all you need to do is add a title, a photo, and a few words to your object. You can add more details later.

"My grandmother collected these pins and wore one every day."

3 But, really, what should you say in this 'description or story' field?

Simply write the first thing that comes to mind.

"It's a piece from a local artist, bought in Marfa, on our first annual trip to Big Bend."

If you're looking for prompts to get started, try these out:

- **Who gave it to you?** When? Why? (Tip: Use the Artifacts 'Occasion' field in your Artifacts form to easily sort your Artifacts.)
- **Oh, you bought it?** Why did you decide to buy it? Did you bargain with the shopkeeper? Was it the first or last in a series of similar objects you've bought to add to your collection?
- **Is the object new or only new to you?** The object's wear and tear (scratch, dent, missing piece, faded area, etc.) might unravel a whole series of stories!
- **Memorable quips, quotes, and quandaries.** Was the object hard to get home or to display? Maybe the person who gave it to you had a funny story to go with it? Or perhaps the object has a personal or historical twist?

4 To share or not to share, that is the question.

Some memories will be private until the day we die. You may only want to share now with your insurance agent or estate planner. We get it.

But for others, sharing with a friend tied to that object may help recall more story details (or an alternate version of events!). Or, sharing publicly could spark conversations and connection with people you've never met.

5 Balance details with privacy.

If you want to quickly upload and share, great! We've got your privacy in mind and the details about the location, value, and documentation of your Artifacts are never shared publicly.

But, as in all social media engagement, if you choose to share, you should always think about the details you put out there for the world. Consider leaving out details to protect your privacy and keep bad actors at bay, including:

- Complete addresses (let's not help the stalkers out there)
- Full names (others in your life might prefer privacy) and account/ID numbers
- Specific dates (birth dates, anniversary dates, etc.) that people love to use in passwords