

# KATHARINE SHULMAN

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## **The Walters Art Museum**

**September 2022 - present**

*Third-year Graduate Intern in Objects Conservation*

- Treatment projects thus far include:
  - Wood and mosaic Thai Thammat (architectural pulpit) - cleaning glass tiles, adhering detached fragments, gap filling and repairing wood splits, loss compensation/rebuilding missing elements
  - Sevres garniture - surface cleaning, disassembly/reassembly, loss compensation of porcelain and ormolu mounts
  - Chinese ceramic pillow - surface cleaning, stain reduction, resurfacing old fills, loss compensation, inpainting
  - Byzantine bronze and glass polycandelon - reduction of corrosion, treatment with BTA, loss compensation
- Technical study of Ethiopian crosses to identify a black resinous material intentionally rubbed into carved recesses and interstices, about which little is known or published.
- Assist with lab maintenance and preventive conservation duties - Oddy testing, gallery maintenance, collection and analysis of data from dataloggers, examination of objects for outgoing loan

## **The Art Institute of Chicago**

**June 2022 - August 2022**

*Graduate Intern in Objects Conservation*

- Treatment projects included:
  - Sevres porcelain plate (main project) - surface cleaning, removal of restorations, loss compensation, inpainting
  - 5 African sculptures - loss compensation, attaching of detached elements, consolidation
  - Minor treatment of miniature objects from the Thorne rooms - attaching detached elements
- Condition reported objects for upcoming Nepalese gallery rotation and *Language of Beauty in African Art* special exhibition
- Participated in Exhibition and Curatorial meetings as they related to my projects
- Assisted with lab maintenance and preventive conservation duties

## **Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation**

**August 2020 - present**

*Graduate Fellow in Objects Conservation, President - Class of 2023*

- 2nd year treatment projects:
  - 1970's porcelain turtle soup tureen with bird finial by Elizabeth McNett Stewart - surface cleaning/coating removal, assembly of fragments, alteration of prior fills, loss compensation, and mimetic retouching
  - Sewing basket - consultation with appropriate communities, surface cleaning, humidification, mending, and loss compensation of weavers
  - 18th century American Philip Syng Jr. silver ladle - polishing, structural intervention with carbon fiber to stabilize large tear, and lacquer coating
  - 1946 (est.) Tom & Jerry animation cel - FTIR analysis of paints, surface cleaning, consolidation, loss compensation, adhesive removal on background, and tear mending of window mat
  - Near eastern archaeological glass carafe - assembly and loss compensation
  - John Rogers plaster sculpture - surface cleaning and consolidation
- Research Project- *Agar Bioplastic: Understanding Its Degradation and Exploring Its Use as a Fill for Glass*
- Independent study: *Materials and Methodologies for Cleaning Cultural Heritage Surfaces*
  - Taught by paintings conservator and affiliated professor Matthew Cushman, this course explores current cleaning techniques and materials with an emphasis on gels and the science behind them, with a focus on surfaces found in objects conservation.
- Independent study: *State of the Union: Investigating Accepted and Innovative Materials for Glass*
  - A self-designed course exploring traditional and innovative materials and techniques used to create glass fills. This involved gathering information from published sources and colleagues from various institutions and conservation programs, and hands-on experimentation. This work culminated in a poster presented at the 2022 ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group Interim Meeting.

## **Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (de Young Museum)**

**June 2021 - August 2021**

*Graduate Intern in Objects Conservation*

- Treatment projects included:
  - Nevers glass figurines - FTIR analysis of prior restoration material, removal of epoxy repairs and fills, surface cleaning, loss compensation with Paraloid B-72
  - Piranesi marble vase - laser cleaning, removal of prior restorations, loss compensation with bulked Paraloid B-72
  - Sargent Johnson terracotta sculpture - surface cleaning, removal of accretions, analysis of surface coating and research into the artist's work to understand technique and process
  - Marie Antoinette *Canape a la Turcque* (painted and gilt wood sofa) - removal of oil gilding, surface cleaning of grime and overpaint, loss compensation with gesso
- Assisted with lab maintenance and preventive conservation duties - creating housings/supports for objects, gallery maintenance, preparing objects to be frozen, and washing and waxing outdoor sculpture.

## **The Philadelphia Museum of Art - Scientific Research Lab**

**June 2018 - Aug 2020**

*Conservation Technician*

- Co-authored forthcoming paper and co-presented a poster entitled *Japanese Sugito in the Philadelphia Museum of Art: Investigation of Painted Decorations and Soluble Nylon Coatings* at the Infrared and Raman Users Group 13th Biennial Conference; 2018 Dec 5-7; Sydney, NSW
- Assisted with pyrolysis GC-MS, Raman, XRF and FTIR preparation and analysis of samples for the sugito project
- Conducted FTIR analysis to determine the substrate (cellulose acetate or nitrate) of a selection of Disney animation cels in the PMA collection in order to make informed decisions regarding rehousing and storage
- Submitted roughly 300 Infrared and Raman spectra to IRUG for the database and spectral search function
- Helped create resources for member use on the IRUG website: Table for Acid, Basic, Direct, Disperse, Mordant, Reactive, Solvent & VAT Dyes, and Synthetic Organic Pigments Reference List

## **The Philadelphia Museum of Art - Objects Conservation Lab**

**June 2015 - August 2020**

*Conservation Technician*

- Treated objects for loans, gallery rotations, special exhibitions and collection maintenance. Significant treatments included: stone objects as well as in situ works and period rooms for the reinstallation of the South Asian Art Galleries, a 1964 Olivetti Praxis 48 typewriter, a Victorian fashion doll, two Tang Dynasty tomb figures, an enamel kettle, and a Sevres porcelain clock.
- Assisted with general lab maintenance, documentation and record keeping.
- Responsible for weekly condition and cleaning rounds in the outdoor sculpture garden. Involved in the seasonal washing and hot waxing of outdoor sculptures at the Rodin Museum (part of PMA).
- Sampled, mounted and analyzed cross-sections for various projects.
- Assisted with small installations and deinstallations, and condition reporting as needed. Acted as a courier for Zoe Leonard's *Strange Fruit* upon its installation at the Whitney Museum of American Art.
- Conducted the annual chemical inventory for the lab and began revamping chemical storage and safety protocols in accordance with HMIS and GHS standards. Prepared the conservation emergency supply/first-response cabinet and cart so that all materials are ready and easily accessible should an incident occur.
- Participated in lab tours and various outreach programs.
- As a sculpture storage technician, I designed and constructed archival-quality primary supports to move ~500 objects to offsite storage. I assisted in developing the layout of the new storage space and liaised between registrars, conservation and the outside contractors involved in the move. Carried out cleanings and minor treatments to prepare objects for safe transport. Led an archival support-making workshop for art handlers.
- Participated in the Museum Studies Internship Program (Summer 2015) where I was exposed to the inner workings of a major museum through lectures given by curators, panel discussions with top-level administrators and behind the scenes tours to get a glimpse into the day-to-day workings of various departments.

## **The Barnes Foundation - Paintings & Frames Conservation Lab**

**November 2016 - June 2020**

*Conservation Technician*

- Performed examination and treatment of frames including Degas *Man on Horseback*, Bonnard *Woman with Dog*, Picasso *Woman Seated on Striped Floor*, Modigliani *The Pretty Housewife*, and Cezanne *The Bellevue Plain*.
- Carried out treatments of paintings including Soutine *Woman Seated in Armchair*, Renoir *Woman Bather*, and unidentified artist *Three Apostles with Scepter, Scimitar and Cross*.

- Responsible for completing written and photographic documentation of all collection treatments.
- Conducted research on marks and inscriptions for paintings in the collection. This included visual examination of the verso of the painting and frame, documentation and writing of a summary report.
- Assisted with organization, filing of reports and photographic documentation, maintaining and updating object files and database entry for management of the *Works on Paper* project and *Cezanne Catalog* project.
- Responsible for the monthly Integrated Pest Management (IPM) collection walkthrough with a contract pest control technician and maintaining the IPM database. A recent webbing clothes moth infestation required daily gallery inspections and vacuuming and preparing textiles for freezing.
- Conducted twice-weekly housekeeping in the galleries, which included dusting objects, vacuuming upholstered chairs, turning on any AV equipment for special exhibitions and writing weekly update reports summarizing gallery conditions and follow-ups from visitor/object interactions.
- Produced incoming and outgoing condition reports for special exhibitions including *Person of the Crowd*, *Mohamed Bourouissa: Urban Riders*, *Kiefer Rodin*, *Berthe Morisot* and *30 Americans*. Performed the responsibilities of a courier for one painting from the *Berthe Morisot* exhibition.
- Conducted the annual inventory of conservation chemical supplies, department supplies and equipment at all campuses. Included updating the SDS database and creation of an Emergency Grab Bag for potential incidents of vandalism in the galleries.
- Responsible for assisting with collection of environmental data (i.e. downloading dataloggers, changing hygrothermograph papers, and uploading data into Climate Notebook).
- Produced two collections-related social media posts per quarter; participated in lab tours and outreach projects.

## ADDITIONAL PRE-PROGRAM WORK

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Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

**July 2019-August 2020**

Research Assistant to Dr. Joelle Wickens

(WUDPAC Associate Director, Assistant Professor and Preventive Conservator)

Gawain Weaver Art Conservation, San Anselmo, CA

**Summer 2014**

Conservation Intern (photo conservation)

Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery (Scripps College)/Williams Art Conservation, Los Angeles, CA

**Spring 2014**

Wilson Conservation Intern (objects conservation)

Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

**Summer 2012**

Conservation Volunteer (objects conservation)

## EDUCATION

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**Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation**, Winterthur, DE

M.S. Art Conservation to be completed August 2023

**Scripps College**, Claremont, CA

B.A. Art Conservation

**Drexel University & Community College of Philadelphia**, Philadelphia, PA

Supplemental courses in Organic Chemistry and Studio Art

**Studio Art Centers International (SACI)**, Florence, Italy

Semester abroad with courses in Italian, Fresco Painting, Mural Conservation, Painting Conservation and Archaeological Objects Conservation

## COURSES & WORKSHOPS

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- Lacquer Seminar with Marianne Webb - December 2022
- Ivory Identification with Terry Drayman-Weisser - October 2022
- Mountmaking with Adam Jenkins - April 2022
- The Use of Paper in Objects Conservation with Lara Kaplan - March 2022
- Conservation of Leather with Lara Kaplan and Melissa Tedone - February 2022
- Private Practice Seminar - January 2022
- Materials and Methodologies for Cleaning Cultural Heritage Surfaces with Matthew Cushman - Fall 2021
- Authenticity and Permanence in Digital Media - December 2021
- Plastics Conservation with Caitlin Richeson - December 2021
- Epoxy Color Fills for Porcelain with Jon Kavaschitz - November 2021
- Grant Writing in Conservation with Giovanna Urist - November 2021
- Paraloid B-72 Fills for Glass with Victoria Schussler - October 2021
- Glass: Epoxy Assembly and In-situ Fills with Lauren Fair - October 2021
- Stain Reduction for Ceramics with Lauren Fair - October 2021
- Techniques of Basketry Conservation with Lara Kaplan - September 2021
- Value-Based Decision Making in Objects Conservation - September 2021
- Fiber Identification with Debora Mayer and Polarized Light Microscopy with Kirsten Moffitt, Fall 2020
- Modular Cleaning Program with Chris Stavroudis - April 2020
- Bruker M6 JETSTREAM Training with Dr. Max Buegler and Dr. Nigel Kelly - January 2020
- Hyperspectral and Multispectral Imaging Workshop with Adam Finnefrock - October 2019
- Infrared Photography Workshop with Dr. Erich Uffelman - October 2019
- Chemistry for Conservators, International Academic Projects - Fall 2019
- Introduction to Frame Making, North Bennett Street School, Boston, MA - July 2019
- Fundamentals of Leafage Carving, North Bennett Street School, Boston, MA - June 2019
- Scanning XRF Workshop with Dr. Bruce Kaiser - Fall 2017
- Laser Cleaning Workshop with Adam Jenkins - December 2016

## POSTERS & PUBLICATIONS

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- 2022** Shulman, Katharine. 2022. *Investigating Accepted and Innovative Materials for Glass Fills*. Poster presented at 6th Interim Meeting of the ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group; Nov 8-11; Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2022** Shulman, Katharine. 2022. *Agar Bioplastic: Understanding Its Degradation and Exploring Its Use as a Fill for Glass*. Paper presented at the ANAGPIC Annual Student Conference, Winterthur, Delaware, USA, April.
- 2021** The Coldest Winter I Ever Spent Was a Summer in San Francisco: A Foggy Few Months at the DeYoung Museum." Summer Work Project Talk, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, November 3, 2021.
- 2018** Price B., Shulman K., et al. *Japanese Sugito in the Philadelphia Museum of Art: Investigation of Painted Decorations and Soluble Nylon Coatings*. Poster presented at 13th Biennial Infrared and Raman Users Group Conference; 2018 Dec 5-7; Sydney, NSW.
- 2016** Collection Storage Tips and Tricks, ICCROM Re-ORG Blog, February 2016  
(<https://re-org.tumblr.com/post/138620011278>) (<https://re-org.tumblr.com/post/138620333633>)

## OUTREACH

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- **Winterthur Conservation Clinic - Fall 2021, Spring 2022**

As part of the museum's and the university's missions of public service, advice on condition, care, and possible treatment is offered to members of the public. Faculty, students, and Winterthur staff share their knowledge about caring for works of art with collectors, curators, owners, caretakers, and scholars.

- **Delphi After School Art Club - Conservation Presentation - January 2019, January 2020**

Presented on reconstruction of ceramics and led an activity where students tried their hands at reconstructing broken pottery.

- **Fresh Artists 'Cool Jobs' Workshop - March 2017, April 2019**

Cool Jobs is a workshop which exposes 7th graders from across Philadelphia to individuals employed in the arts who love their jobs, many of which jobs the students do not know exist. I presented with colleagues from the Barnes Foundation about preventive conservation and led a hands-on activity on mold-making and frame conservation.

- **Art Protection Squad, Philadelphia Museum of Art Family Festival - Oct 7, 2018**

Conservators and scientists from different labs at PMA created and led activities which endeavored to explain to children and parents alike just what it takes to care for the thousands of artworks in the collection. I represented the Objects Lab with a hands-on activity about metals and patination.

## CURRENT ASSOCIATIONS

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American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)

Washington Conservation Guild (WCG)

Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (ECPN)