

EDUCATION

Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation, Winterthur, DE
M.S./Certificate in Art Conservation, objects major – August 2003

Rice University, Houston, TX
B.A. Art/Art History and Linguistics, cum laude – May 1997

EXPERIENCE**1/05-Present: Freelance Conservator****Lara Kaplan Objects Conservation, LLC – Baltimore, MD**

Working as an independent conservator for institutions, galleries, and private individuals. Services include examination, treatment, surveys, art historical research, sampling and testing, and consultation on storage, transportation, and exhibition of art and artifacts. See attached Addendum for a list of selected projects with institutional clients.

8/06-Present: Affiliated Assistant Professor**Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation – Winterthur, DE**

Leading the Organic Block section of the 1st-year graduate school curriculum, covering plant materials, skin/leather, keratins, hard organic matrices, and plastics; supervising 2nd- and 3rd-year objects majors; teaching advanced seminars on a variety of topics, including testing and treatment of leather artifacts, conservation of basketry, ethical issues in ethnographic conservation, and opening a conservation private practice; in past years, assisted with other seminars, such as stain reduction of ceramics, filling and inpainting porcelain, polishing and lacquering silver, and treating feathers.

1/13–5/13: Adjunct Faculty**Corcoran College of Art + Design – Washington, DC**

Co-taught a semester-long class on the basics of conservation and art handling to students in the Corcoran's Master of Arts in Exhibition Design Program.

1/08-12/09: Adjunct Professor in Museum Studies**Towson University – Towson, MD**

Developed and taught a semester-long course on the care and handling of museum objects.

9/03-12/04: Post-Graduate Mellon Fellow**National Museum of the American Indian, Cultural Resources Center (CRC) – Suitland, MD**

Performed conservation activities associated with the Museum's 2004 opening on the National Mall and a 2005 exhibit on Northwest Coast materials.

9/02-8/03: 3rd-Year Conservation Graduate Intern**Arizona State Museum, University of AZ (ASM)/National Park Service Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC) – Tucson, AZ**

At ASM, conserved art and artifacts from the U.S. Southwest, Mexico, Brazil, and Africa. At WACC, rehoused repository collections in preparation for a move to a new storage facility and examined, analyzed, and documented a collection of unstable 19th c. archaeological iron and copper artifacts.

6/02-8/02: 2nd-Year Conservation Graduate Summer Intern**The Sheldon Jackson Museum – Sitka, AK**

Conserved a late 19th c. Athabascan birch bark canoe.

6/0-8/01: 1st-year Conservation Graduate Summer Intern

The Frick Collection – New York, NY

Assisted with a condition survey of 16th -17th c. Limoges enamels. Also conserved fine and decorative arts objects from the permanent collection, including a 15th century German master clock and a life-size terracotta sculpture of Diana by Jean-Antoine Houdin.

2/99-1/00, 1/00-2/01: Architectural Technician

National Park Service Washington Monument Restoration Project – Washington, DC

Performed conservation treatments on the 193 historic commemorative stone tablets within the Monument.

6/99-8/99: Conservation Contractor

National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution – Washington, DC

Performed initial treatments on a series of four reinforced concrete screens by Nigerian folk artist Adebisi Akanji.

8/98-1/99: Conservation Volunteer

The Walters Art Museum – Baltimore, MD

Assisted with the de-installation and cleaning of a series of Egyptian granite reliefs as part of the Museum building's renovation; organized and reconstructed a collection of 10th c. Byzantine tiles; tested exhibit materials; and took part in an ongoing review and organization of the lab's extensive treatment records.

6/97-9/97: Pre-Program Conservation Intern

Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute, Museum Support Center – Suitland, MD

Participated in the ongoing conservation of an 18th c. English japanned clock. Attended master-level classes in paper, paintings, and furniture conservation as well as textile stain removal, varnish, woodworking, and adhesives.

6/93-8/93; 12/94-1/95: Conservation Volunteer

Smithsonian Institution Library Book Conservation Lab – Washington, DC

Gained experience in the examination, cleaning, repair, and rehousing/storage of books, archival materials, and works on paper.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

Training Courses Attended

- **Optimizing Your Conservation Practice** – AIC, May 29, 2013
- **National NAGPRA Basics Training** – NPS, Nov 27, 2012
- **Mastering Inpainting** – AIC/NPS, May 21-25, 2012
- **Digital Photography 101 for Conservators** – FAIC, Apr 28-May 26, 2011
- **Mitigating Risks: Contracts and Insurance for Conservation** – FAIC, July 8-Aug 6, 2008
- **Professional Responsibility for Conservation** – FAIC, Aug 2-29, 2007
- **Assessing the Skin: Characterizing the Animal Source, Processing Method, and Deterioration of Museum and Library Objects** – AIC/Winterthur, Jun 25-27, 2007
- **Metals Conservation Summer Institute** – IMLS/Worcester Polytechnic Inst., May 27-Jun 7, 2006
- **Establishing a Conservation Practice** – FAIC, Jan 26-Feb 21, 2006
- **Conservation of Hurricane-Damaged Vernacular Houses** – Heritage Conservation Network, Jan 23-27, 2006
- **Adhesives for Conservation Workshop** – Sept 19-23, 2005
- **Laboratory Safety Training for SI Conservators and Research Scientists** – Smithsonian MCI, Nov 13, 2003
- **Spot Testing for Materials Characterization Workshop** – FAIC/Campbell Center, Oct 14-18, 2003

- **Niton XRF Spectrum Analyzer Manufacturer's Training Course** – Dec 11, 2002
- **Anglo-American Research at Pompeii Project** – Hunter College, NY/U of Bradford, UK, Jul-Aug, 1996

Professional Activities

- **Society of Winterthur Fellows Board Member** – 2015-2018
- **OSG Postprints Co-Editor** – 2017-2018
- **Peer Reviewer** – OSG Postprints, 2014; Journal of Cultural Heritage, 2017
- **AIC Objects Specialty Group (OSG) Chair** – June 2012-June 2015
- **Grant Review Panelist** – National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions, 2010; 2012; 2014; 2017

Talks and Publications

- **Life Saving Measures: The Treatment and Display of a World War I-Era Harlem Hellfighters Gas Mask**, tip presented at the 2017 AIC annual meeting's STASH (Storage Techniques for Art, Science, and History) Flash session, co-authored with Connie Stromberg.
- **Using XRF for the Identification of Chrome Tanning in Leather**, poster presented at the 2015 AIC annual meeting, co-authored with Bruno P. Pouliot and Dr. Jennifer Mass.
- **Stabilizing a Vision: The Investigation and Treatment of Southwestern Pottery at the Barnes Foundation**, poster presented at the 2010 AIC annual meeting.
- **The Conservation of Southwest Pueblo Ceramics at the Barnes Foundation**, Barnes Foundation Newsletter, Summer 2009.
- **The Fight to Save Civil War Graffiti: Plaster Consolidation Tests at the Lockwood House, Harpers Ferry, West, Virginia**, paper delivered at the 2007 AIC annual meeting, co-authored with J. Jacob.
- **New Ideas for the Testing, Documentation, and Storage of Objects Previously Treated With Pesticides**, paper delivered at the 2003 AIC annual meeting, co-authored with N. Odegaard, et al. *Objects Specialty Group Postprints*, v. 10, 2003: AIC 2004, 33-42.
- **S.S. White to the Rescue: Salvaging Fire-Damaged Baskets with the S.S. White/Pennwalt Airbrasion Unit**, poster presented at the 2003 AIC annual meeting, co-authored with N. Odegaard, et al. *Objects Specialty Group Postprints*, v. 10, 2003: AIC 2004, 215-225.
- **Conservation Through Investigation: Uncovering the Story of a Japanese Ceremonial Doll**, paper delivered at the 2002 AIC annual meeting. *The Textile Specialty Group Postprints* v. 12: AIC Textile Specialty Group 2002, 105-118.

Grants and Awards

- **FAIC Individual Professional Development Scholarship** – awarded to attend the AIC training workshop, Adhesives for Conservation, Sept. 2005.
- **Smithsonian Institution Pride Award** – given by the National Museum of the American Indian in recognition of work performed for the Museum's opening on the National Mall, 2004.
- **FAIC George Stout Memorial Fund** – awarded to attend the 31st AIC annual meeting, June 2003.
- **Dr. Edward and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Travel Award** – a grant awarded by the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art conservation for travel to the Winterthur Analytical Laboratory to perform technical analysis on archeological metals, May 2003.
- **Italy in America Association's Summer Scholarship** – a competitive scholarship awarded to undergraduate students having completed intermediate Italian classes to study in Italy, May 1996.

Professional Organizations

- **American Institute of Conservation for Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)**, Professional Associate
- **International Institute of Conservation (IIC)**, Member
- **Washington Conservation Guild (WCG)**, Member
- **American Association of Museums (AAM)**, Member

ADDENDUM

Selected Institutional Projects

- **Baltimore Orioles** (Baltimore, MD – 2010)
Cleaned, mended, stabilized, and replicated missing elements for a collection of World Series trophies.
- **Barnes Foundation** (Merion, PA/Philadelphia, PA – 2008-2009; 2011; 2012)
Undertook a Luce Foundation funded project involving the examination, documentation, analysis, and treatment of 49 historic Southwest ceramic vessels. Also cleaned, mended, stabilized, polished, and lacquered 3 leather and silver Navajo concho belts, and wrote outgoing and incoming condition reports for over 100 pieces of Navajo silver jewelry.
- **Brandywine River Museum** (Chadds Ford, PA – 2009; 2010)
Examined and/or treated studio props belonging to American artist and illustrator, N.C. Wyeth: surveyed 49 late-18th to early-19th c. hats; cleaned and mended 2 Plains painted rawhide parfleches; and mended a Puebloan polychrome ceramic olla.
- **Ft. Jackson – Basic Combat Training Museum** (Columbia, SC – 2011)
Performed remedial treatments on WWII-era leather, textile, and metal artifacts damaged in a sprinkler incident.
- **Georgetown University** (Washington, DC – 2014)
Condition surveyed over 138 plaster casts by the sculptor Betti Richard Von Matsch.
- **Johns Hopkins Archeological Museum** (Baltimore, MD – 2010-2011)
Examined, documented, and treated over 75 ancient Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Near-Eastern, and Mesoamerican artifacts chosen for display in the Museum's new gallery spaces.
- **Maryland Historical Society** (Baltimore, MD – 2012; 2013; 2014; 2017)
Examined, documented, and treated artifacts in preparation for exhibits on various topics, including the War of 1812 and various historical figures important to Baltimore, such as Betsy Bonaparte. Treatments included polishing and waxing silver and other metal objects; cleaning, reshaping, and stabilizing leather items; stain reduction in ceramics; and cleaning, consolidating, and inpainting a painted wooden figural sculpture.
- **Museum of Indian Arts and Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology** (Santa Fe, NM – 2007)
Participated in a Getty Foundation funded project involving the survey and documentation of 13th-17th c. murals removed in 1935 from a kiva at the Kuaua Pueblo archeological site (present-day Coronado State Park, NM) and mounted on 76 panels. Semi-rectified, high-resolution digital images of individual panels were taken to aid with iconographic analysis and digital reconstruction of the murals, as well as for technical examination and condition mapping using Adobe Photoshop and AutoCAD.
- **National Park Service Buildings Conservation Branch** (Washington, DC – 2005; 2006; 2008)
Treated glass mosaics on the Hahnemann Memorial (Washington DC); tested plaster consolidants to preserve Civil War graffiti at the Lockwood House (Harpers Ferry, WV); and cleaned and packed historic labware at Edison National Historic Site (West Orange, NJ).
- **National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center** (Shepherdstown, WV – 2007)
Examined, documented, and treated approximately 75 Civil War era objects in preparation for the 2008 re-opening of the Gettysburg National Historical Site Museum and Visitor Center.
- **Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture** (Baltimore, MD – 2005)
Established general conservation protocols for the Museum; outfitted its new lab space; and provided key services leading to the Museum's June 2005 inaugural opening (treatment, consultation, installation, etc.).
- **Smithsonian National Museum of the African American History and Culture** (Landover, MD – 2014-2016)
Documented and treated artifacts of a variety of types related to African American history and culture in preparation for the museum's upcoming inaugural opening on the National Mall.
- **Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Cultural Resources Center** (Suitland, MD – 2005)
Examined, documented, and treated baskets and other items displayed in the 2006 exhibit, *Indigenous Motivations: Recent Acquisitions from the National Museum of the American Indian*.
- **Winterthur Museum and Country Estate** (Winterthur, DE – 2009)
Treated porcelain and silver objects from the Museum's permanent collection.