

LAUREN FAIR

HERITAGE CONSERVATOR, EDUCATOR & ORGANIZER

Dedicated objects conservator and university professor with 14 years of experience facilitating research, access, community, and mentorship among colleagues and students, and across the heritage preservation profession. Experienced in managing grant initiatives, developing socially responsible curricula, and collaboratively leading teams with a solutions-centered approach.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

2023—Present Assistant Director of Conservation

Works directly with Development Office and targeted donor groups to raise awareness of departmental goals and achievements; manages outreach initiatives such public onsite and in-community conservation clinics, as well as tours, events, and social media engagement; assists with budget strategy and implementation; supports staff in day-to-day management of workload and prioritization.

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

2019—Present Objects Conservator and Lab Head

2015—2019 Associate Objects Conservator

2012—2015 Assistant Objects Conservator

2011—2012 Advanced Conservation Fellow

Supervises objects lab staff, interns, and fellows; manages care of collection objects, including garden sculpture and historic building elements and automobiles; serves emergency response team and diversity, equity, access, and inclusion task force.

University of Delaware

2022—Present Affiliated Associate Professor

2011—2022 Affiliated Assistant Professor

Mentors and educates conservation graduate students in the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC); develops objects conservation curriculum, including first-year Inorganic Block, second-year projects and seminars, and third-year internship coordination and oversight; leads grant initiatives and reviews student grant applications; serves on student advisory committees and graduate admissions.

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

2010—2011 Samuel H. Kress Fellow

Conducted research, analysis, and treatment of ~270 18th-19th-century Staffordshire figures, contributing new information about English enamel color technology through publications, workshops, and lectures.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

2009—2010 Graduate Intern, Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation

Collaboratively assessed and treated the “Damascus Room” during Islamic Gallery renovation, characterizing original materials to reconstruct two didactic wall panels. Other projects included European and Asian ceramics, archaeological Iranian glass, and 13th-century Tibetan metalwork.

Milner and Carr Conservation (later, Materials Conservation Collaborative)

2009 Summer Graduate Intern in Conservation

Trained alongside architects, masons, and conservators. Work included laser cleaning architectural terracotta, iron stain removal and bioremediation of limestone, and ultra-high-pressure water blasting bronze statuary.

Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design

2008 Summer Graduate Intern in Conservation

Completed final phase in multi-year conservation project of museum's early 18th- century "Damascus Room," carrying out in-situ treatment of decorative surfaces and advising museum staff on preventive conservation care.

William A. Lewin Conservator, LLC

2006–2007 Conservation Assistant

Learned traditional and modern conservation approaches to oil and water gilding, completing treatments such as 20'X30' frame for the US Capitol and 18th-century French chairs for the White House; conducted consultations at museums and historic sites in DC-Baltimore area; and assisted in daily studio management.

GRANTS MANGEMENT EXPERIENCE

National Endowment for the Humanities: Preservation and Access Education and Training

2017–2023 Principal Investigator

For past six years, served as grant PI for Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC). Developed and directed "NEH Fellow Program" to increase outreach and community engagement through faculty teaching and student projects; thus far, sponsored twelve projects that impacted countless individuals and communities. Cumulatively, earned \$875,000 to support graduate students:

- 2023 \$250,000 with an additional \$100,000 1:1 match to support WUDPAC graduate students
- 2019 \$350,000 to support WUDPAC graduate students
- 2017 \$150,000 with an additional \$25,000 1:1 match to support WUDPAC graduate students

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Keystone Historic Preservation Planning

2022–Present Advisor

Enlisted by the Friends of Barnard Station in Chester County, PA to consult on fundraising strategies, historic preservation, and collections management policies, supporting efforts to establish a community heritage center at the Quaker home and active stop on the Underground Railroad. Successfully facilitated first major grant of \$25,000 with 1:1 match to complete a Preservation Plan.

Society of Winterthur Fellows

2016–2022 Grant Reviewer

Reviewed and evaluated dozens of grant applications by the Society of Winterthur Fellows, alumni organization for the two Winterthur/ University of Delaware graduate programs, Art Conservation and American Material Culture. Between 2019-2021, helped provide over \$18,000 in support to alumni for humanities research and knowledge dissemination, and to current graduate students for professional development and special projects.

Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation Student Professional Development Fund

2011–2018 Grant Reviewer

Served on grant review committee to support current conservation students interested in developing their career goals beyond the graduate curriculum. Collectively supplied students with up to \$3,000 annually and supported initiatives such as research travel and participation in conferences and workshops around the world.

ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

University of Delaware's Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI)

2023—Present Program Liaison

Participant in Spring 2023 Women's Leadership Online Certificate Program. Collaborating with WLI to develop additional programming for WUDPAC alumni to promote individual and fieldwide leadership growth.

International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation Glass and Ceramics Working Group

2017—2023 Coordinator

2014—2017 Assistant Coordinator

Directed and promoted projects to advance research in care and connoisseurship of glass and ceramic cultural heritage, including conferences, peer-reviewed publications, newsletters, online discussions, and member surveys. Organized three Interim Meetings with accompanying Preprints: Lisbon 2022 (hybrid), London 2019, and Wrocław 2016. Advocated for all Working Groups and led communications with ICOM-CC board to promote collegial and transparent practice.

Society of Winterthur Fellows

2016—2022 Board Member

Developed events and member services for Winterthur/University of Delaware alumni association. Launched Society's new website (www.sowf.org), creating content, executing web design, and overseeing site management.

Sustainability in Conservation: The Future of Conservation

2022 Sep Panelist

Invited to speak on panel at ICOM-CC Metals Working Group Interim Meeting in Helsinki; generated discussion about future of conservation and collective responsibility to instill sustainable practice in all we do.

WUDPAC Affiliated Faculty Retreat

2022 Jul Organizer

As WUDPAC Curriculum Committee Chair, organized two-day retreat for affiliated faculty to address challenges of dual museum and university appointments; facilitated by Dialogic Consulting, resulting action items now underway.

Inclusive Conservation Education for ANAGPIC Faculty

2020 Aug Organizer

Initiated and co-organized two training sessions for faculty of Association of North American Graduate Programs in Conservation centered on making conservation education more inclusive and challenging white supremacy framework of academia; sessions moderated by Ama Codjoe and sponsored by ANAGPIC and WUDPAC.

Inclusion and Equity in Conservation and Preservation

2017 May Organizer

Co-organized pre-conference session at AIC Meeting in Chicago centered on inclusion and equity and conservation and envisioning a more equitable profession for future. Workshop moderated by Sanchita Balachandran, Nikhil Trivedi, Lisa Marie Pickens, and Manju Rajendran of the Anti-Oppression Resource + Training Alliance.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Metals Conservation Pedagogy

Fall 2023 six-week sabbatical dedicated to exploring metals conservation pedagogy at selected sites in Europe and the UK to bolster metals conservation expertise and implement useful improvements in WUDPAC Inorganic Objects curriculum; outcomes and findings to be shared through publications and lectures.

Teaching Ethics in Objects Conservation

Revising ethics taught at WUDPAC to meet needs of changing field and society; studying education theory on learning styles, reflective judgement, and collaborative learning to inform approach; book chapter in *Prioritizing People in Ethical Decision-Making and Caring for Cultural Heritage Collections*, edited by Nina Owczarek Herrera (Routledge 2023), considers how conservation educators can prioritize ethics alongside practical treatment skills.

Coatings for Silver, Silverplate, and Copper Alloys

Collaborative research at Winterthur refining approach to coating historic silver, silverplate, and copper alloys; involves technicians, interns, scientists, curators, and silver historians. Recent work evaluates long-term effects of UV dye additive to nitrocellulose lacquer, employs Fiber Optic Reflectance Spectroscopy to measure and evaluate coating thickness, and investigates interactions of nitrocellulose with fused plate substrates.

Stain Reduction of Ceramics

Established successful protocol for treating stains in historic ceramics; taught national workshops, presented research and workshop content at 2013 ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group Interim Meeting, leading to subsequent workshops in the US and abroad. In 2022, established online stain reduction discussion forum. In 2023, will advise project team in Belgium studying ceramics heavily stained during severe floods.

Professional workshops on ceramic stain reduction include:

- 2024 Mar, invited workshop at La Cambre and KIK-IRPA (Brussels, Belgium)
- 2023 Oct, invited workshop at West Dean College (Chichester, UK)
- 2022 Aug, two 2-day workshops held at University College London and sponsored by the Institute of Conservation Ceramics and Glass Group
- 2021 Nov, online lecture, sponsored by the Institute of Conservation Ceramics and Glass Group
- 2015 Apr, two-day workshop for objects, paintings, paper, and furniture conservators, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- 2014 Apr, daylong workshop for objects conservators, Lunder Conservation Center, Washington, DC
- 2013 Jan, daylong workshop for objects conservators, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore
- 2012 May, daylong workshop for objects conservators, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Sustainable Garden Object Maintenance

Established sustainable maintenance plan for 400+ garden objects at Winterthur, including seasonal covers, movement tracking protocols, and protective coatings for lead. Presented treatment of lead sculpture at 2017 AIC Annual Meeting and delivered numerous talks to Winterthur members. In 2023, will host director of H. Crowther Ltd. to provide historical context and preservation advice; collaboration outcomes to be shared with Winterthur community and beyond.

Staffordshire Figures at Winterthur: A Technical Study of the Polychrome Decoration

2010-2011 yearlong Samuel H. Kress internship at Winterthur, exploring technical aspects of Staffordshire enamels on lead-glazed earthenware and discovering "new" colorant unique to English wares. Presented and published at many venues. Currently, curating display at Winterthur featuring research and analysis of Staffordshire figure collection.

Syrian Painted Interiors

At The Metropolitan Museum of Art, collaboratively investigated materials and methods of manufacture for Syrian painted interiors of the Ottoman Empire. Produced two didactic panels featured alongside museum's Damascus Room installation, illustrating original colors, and in poster at 2010 IIC Congress in Istanbul.

PUBLICATIONS

- Fair, Lauren**, and Lara Kaplan. 2023. "Incorporating Philosophy and Ethics in Objects Conservation Curricula." In *Prioritizing People in Ethical Decision-Making and Caring for Cultural Heritage Collections*, edited by Nina Owczarek Herrera. Oxfordshire, UK: Routledge.
- Shulman, Katie, and **Lauren Fair**. 2022. "Investigating Accepted and Innovative Materials for Glass Fills." Poster at *Recent Advances in Glass and Ceramics Conservation 2022*, the ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group interim meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, 9-11 November 2022.
- Grayburn, Rosie, and **Lauren Fair**. 2022. "A Lacquer to Dye For! Exploring a UV fluorescent additive for coating application in silver conservation." Poster at *METAL2022*, the ICOM-CC Metals Working Group interim meeting, Helsinki, Finland, 5-9 September 2022.
- Fair, Lauren**, Lara Kaplan, Debbie Hess Norris, and Melissa Tedone. 2021. "Winterthur University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC): Update." In *AIC News* 46(3): 33-35.
- Crawford, Michael K., **Lauren Fair**, Katelyn Rovito, Tia Polidori, and Rosie Grayburn. 2021. "Thickness Measurements of Clear Coatings on Silver Objects using Fiber Optic Reflectance Spectroscopy." In *JAIC*.
- Fair, Lauren**. 2021. "Ceramics and Glass" and "Metals." In *Caring for Your Cherished Objects: The Winterthur Guide*, edited by Joy Gardiner and Joan Irving. Winterthur, DE: Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum.
- Fair, Lauren**. 2018. "Shedding Light on the Colors of Staffordshire Figures." In *The Staffordshire Figure Association Newsletter* (Fall 2018): 20-23.
- Fair, Lauren**, and Adam Jenkins. 2017. "Pepper Wax: An Organic Squirrel Deterrent for Lead." *AIC Objects Specialty Group Postprints* 23: 437-444.
- Roemich, Hannelore, PhD, and **Lauren Fair**, eds. 2016. *Recent Advances in Glass and Ceramics Conservation 2016*. Pre-prints of the ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group Interim Meeting, Wrocław, Poland, 25-29 May 2016. ICOM Committee for Conservation.
- Fair, Lauren**, and Dr. Jennifer Mass. 2013. "Polychrome Decoration on Staffordshire Figures: Identification of a New Enamel Colourant and Underglaze Oxide." In *Recent Advances in Glass, Stained-Glass, and Ceramics Conservation 2013*. Pre-prints of the ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group Interim Meeting and the Forum of the International Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Stained Glass, Amsterdam, NL, 7-10 October 2013, edited by Hannelore Roemich and Kate van Lookeren Campagne, 281-293. ICOM Committee for Conservation.
- Fair, Lauren**, and Dr. Jennifer Mass. 2013. "Polychrome Decoration on Staffordshire Figures: The Identification of a New Enamel Colorant and Underglaze Oxide Recipes Using Technical Analysis." In *Ars Ceramica* 29: 6-39.
- Pouliot, Bruno, **Lauren Fair**, and Richard Wolbers. 2013. "Re-thinking the Approach: Techniques Explored at Winterthur for the Stain Reduction of Ceramics." In *Recent Advances in Glass, Stained-Glass, and Ceramics Conservation 2013*. Pre-prints of the ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group Interim Meeting and the Forum of the International Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Stained Glass, Amsterdam, NL, 7-10 October 2013, edited by Hannelore Roemich and Kate van Lookeren Campagne, 211-223. ICOM Committee for Conservation.
- Wagner, Ann, Mary McGinn, and **Lauren Fair**. 2012. "Scratching the Surface of American Painted Tinware." In *Antiques & Fine Art Magazine* XI (6): 189-191.
- Fair, Lauren**. 2012. "Under, Over, and In the Mix: A Practical Guide to Telling the Difference Between Types of Polychrome Decoration on English Earthenware Figures." Poster presented at the 2012 meeting of the AIC in Albuquerque, NM, 8-11 May 2012.
- Fair, Lauren**, Beth Edelstein, and Adrianna Rizzo. 2010. "Painting Techniques of Ottoman Interiors: Reconstructing Decorative Panels from a Damascus Room at the Metropolitan Museum of Art." Poster presented at the 2010 meeting of the IIC in Istanbul, Turkey, 20-24 September 2010.

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

University of Delaware

ARTC 870 Internship Year: Leadership and Advocacy Training

Beyond providing distance supervision and oversight while students complete yearlong internships at one or more host institutions, I am currently developing a new seminar to launch 2024-2025 that centers leadership and advocacy and prepares our students as they ready themselves to enter the workforce. Topics under consideration include workplace realities, managing up, how to center your own values, and self-advocacy.

ARTC 658 & 659 Advanced Apprenticeship and Research in Conservation: Objects Major

WUDPAC second year objects curriculum develops conservation treatment skills and scholarship and a fluency with multifaceted documentation, forms a solid ethical foundation of practice, and fosters effective communication, professionalism, and the ability to efficiently manage multiple deadline-driven projects. Students research and treat a variety of objects and participate in a diverse series of seminars.

Seminars I developed and lead:

- Values-based decision making in objects conservation
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion in conservation
- Stone conservation
- Stain reduction of ceramics
- Creating a second-year online portfolio
- Glass loss compensation
- Epoxy colorfills and bulked B-72 fills for porcelain
- Advanced topics in metals conservation
- Authenticity and permanence in digital media
- Care and maintenance of operational cultural objects

ARTC 666 Independent Study

Major supervisor for ten WUDPAC second-year independent studies:

- Study of Fill Materials for Objects Conservation (Katherine Peters, Fall 2023)
- Perspectives on Documenting Time-Based Media (Daniella Briceño Villamil, Fall 2022)
- 3D Scanning the Fragments of a Large Zinc Statue (Olav Bjornerud, Spring 2022)
- Investigating Accepted and Innovative Materials for Glass Fills (Katie Shulman, Spring 2022)
- Non-Colonial Communication Systems in Museums (Nylah Byrd, Fall 2020)
- An Investigation of Preservation Solutions for a "Missing" Chicano Mural (Abby Rodriguez, Fall 2020)
- Organic Pseudomorphs from Ur: Documentation Imaging at the Penn Museum (Kate Acuna, Spring 2020)
- Painted Outdoor (Movable) Sculpture: Coating Analysis and Proposal for Testing of a 1927 Pall Mall-Bodied Rolls-Royce Phantom I (Kate Acuna, Fall 2019)
- The Mitigation of Epoxy Yellowing (Cassia Balogh, Spring 2018)
- Practical Experiences in Metalworking (Haddon Dine, Spring 2018)
- Artist's Machine Deconstructed: Input Devices, Arduino, Output to Actuators, Etc. (Nick Kaplan, Fall 2017)

ARTC 657 Conservation Principles: Inorganic Materials Conservation Block

WUDPAC first year, four weeks covering the conservation of glass, ceramics, metals, and stone. Includes a mixture of lecture, discussion, independent work, field trips, and hands-on practical exercises.

Winterthur Program in American Material Culture: Ceramics and Glass Block

Seminar on ceramics and glass conservation and thesis research consultations.

ARTC 464 Conservation Internship

Undergraduate-level practical internship course in ceramics conservation, hosted at Winterthur.

Other Teaching and Mentoring Experience

West Dean College

2023 Oct, leading various seminars to students in all specialty areas: Books, Ceramics, Metals, Clocks, and Furniture.

2023 Feb-Mar, co-supervisor to Denise Araxi Carapiet for six-week graduate work placement at Winterthur.

California Polytechnic State University

2022–2023, co-supervisor to Alison Chew for eight-month internship focusing on coating failure mechanisms on silverplate at Winterthur and the University of Delaware, sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Opportunity for Diversity in Conservation.

Alliance of HBCU Museums & Galleries, et. al.

2022 May, introduction to ceramics conservation and practical ceramic assembly exercise as part of the Six-Week Internship in Practical Conservation for four HBCU students.

2019 Jun, practical applications in silver conservation and electroplating exercise as part of the Two-Week Internship in Practical Conservation for four HBCU students.

Lewis & Clark College

2018 Nov, public lecture on Ethics in Art Conservation and consultations with undergraduate art history students.

Winterthur Postgraduate Conservation Fellowship

2016–2018, supervisor to Madeline Hagerman for a two-year fellowship in objects conservation, including survey, treatment, and research into Winterthur's ceramic tile collection. Fellowship culminated in published papers, professional talks, online engagement, and in-situ treatment during public tours of two mounted fireplace surrounds.

University of Arizona

2017 Feb, public lecture on Methods of Stain Reduction for Ceramics.

New York University

2015 Jun, lecture titled "Ceramic Making Across Borders: Insight into the Influence of Porcelain through Conservation Science," for the NYU Summer Institute in Technical Art History: Material Movement: Global Artistic Interdependencies and Exchanges.

University of Delaware

2015 Mar, lecture to undergraduate Museum Studies class on Ethics in Art Conservation.

2012 Mar, lecture to undergraduate Conservation Science class on Ethics in Art Conservation.

Winterthur Collector's Circle

2015 Nov, workshop, "The Technology of Color: Looking at Polychrome Enamelled Ceramics."

2014 Nov, workshop, "Collecting with Care: Ivory in the Decorative Arts."

Princeton University

2010 Nov, lecture for a daylong PhD and Graduate Workshop on Ming Dynasty Ceramic Sculpture.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation

2017–2023 Coordinator, Glass and Ceramics Working Group
2014–2017 Assistant Coordinator, Glass and Ceramics Working Group
2008–Present Member

American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works and Objects Specialty Group

2016–Present Professional Associate and periodic reviewer for contributions to the Objects Specialty Group
2007–2016 Member

Society of Winterthur Fellows

2007–Present Member
2016–2022 Board Member

Philadelphia Art Conservation Association

2013–Present Member

EDUCATION

Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

2010 Master of Science in Art Conservation
Specialty: Objects Conservation

University of Delaware

2005 Bachelor of Arts in Art History with a Minor in Spanish Studies
Honors: cum laude

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Women's Leadership Initiative Online Certificate Program

2023 Five online sessions and four self-paced modules, sponsored by the University of Delaware Alfred Lerner College of Business & Economics, March and April

Race, Power, and Responsibility: Diversity Education for AIC Members

2021 Training led by Dr. Nicole Robinson and Cultural Connections by Design, sponsored by AIC, 29 October

Inclusive Conservation Education for ANAGPIC Faculty

2020 Co-organized two training sessions for all ANAGPIC faculty led by Ama Codjoe, sponsored by ANAGPIC and WUDPAC, 10 and 20 August

Indigenous Futures and Collaborative Conservation

2019 Closing session of the 47th Annual Meeting of AIC, Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT, 17 May

Days of Fire

2018 Experimental pyrotechnology workshop on Iron Age smelting and ironworking, Bronze Age copper casting, and ancient glass bead manufacture, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY, 21-22 September

It's About Time: Building a New Discipline: Time Based Media Art Conservation

2018 Symposium, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, NY, 20-22 May

A Facilitated Conversation About Inclusion and Equity in Conservation and Preservation

2017 Co-organized session at the 45th Annual AIC Meeting in Chicago with Sanchita Balachandran, nikhil trivedi, Lisa Marie Pickens, and Manju Rajendran of AORTA (Anti-Opression Resource + Training Alliance), 29 May

3D Photogrammetry

2016 Weeklong course by Cultural Heritage Imaging, Buffalo State College, NY, 8-11 August

Cleaning of Decorative and Historic Finishes

2015 Weeklong workshop sponsored by FAIC in collaboration with WUDPAC and the AIC Wooden Artifacts Group, Winterthur Museum, DE, 3-7 August

Influencing for Impact: Leadership Strategies for Success

2015 Workshop by Bob Norris and AIC Collections Care Network, 43rd Annual Meeting of the AIC, Miami, FL, 13 May

Standards for Cleaning Masonry Buildings

2014 Colloquium sponsored by the AIA Historic Resources Committee, the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, and the AIC Architectural Specialty Group, Taliesin West, AZ, 10-12 October

Introduction to Identification of Aluminum Alloys and Finishes

2014 Weeklong conference and workshop led by Malcolm Collum, David Hallam, Bruce Hinton, and Bruce Kaiser at the Emil Buehler Conservation Laboratory at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, Chantilly, VA, 7-11 April

Highlight Reflectance Transformation Imaging

2013 Weeklong course taught by Cultural Heritage Imaging, Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, DE, 22-25 January

Traditional Gilding and Conservation of Gilt Wooden Objects

2011 Workshop taught by Marie Dubost at Winterthur Museum, 10-12 October