

# LAUREN FAIR

OBJECTS CONSERVATOR & EDUCATOR

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library  
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## PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

### Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

**2019—present** Head of Objects Conservation

2015—2019 Associate Objects Conservator

2012—2015 Assistant Objects Conservator

2011—2012 Advanced Conservation Fellow

*Manages care of collection objects, garden sculpture, historic building elements, historic automobiles. Oversees daily lab activities and coordinates X-radiography. Serves on emergency response team and contributes to public conservation clinics, workshops, tours, and events. Current research includes stain reduction of ceramics, sustainable garden object maintenance, and coatings for silver and copper alloys.*

### Winterthur/University of Delaware

**2011—present** Affiliated Assistant Professor

*Major supervisor and Academic Advisory Committee member for select second- and third-year students. Leads second-year seminars and teaches first-year Inorganic Block. Chairs Curriculum Committee and NEH Fellow Selection Committee; serves on Executive Committee, and regularly on Admissions Committee. Leads select grant initiatives for graduate program.*

### Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

2010—2011 Samuel H. Kress Fellow

*Led research, survey, and treatment on Winterthur's collection of ~270 18<sup>th</sup>—19<sup>th</sup>-century Staffordshire earthenware figures. Conducted in-depth technical study of polychromy to determine enamel composition and manufacture techniques. Published on this research and taught many lectures, both internally and to local public audiences.*

### The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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

*Conducted treatment and research on 18<sup>th</sup>-century Syrian painted wall panels and led investigation of original ceiling arrangement. Characterized original materials and reconstructed two wall panels as a didactic. Other projects included Meissen porcelain, Staffordshire earthenware, Chinese porcelain and stoneware, archaeological glass, and 13<sup>th</sup>-century Tibetan metalwork.*

### Milner and Carr (now Materials Conservation)

2009 Summer Graduate Intern in Conservation

*Trained alongside architects, gilders, masons, and conservators on projects including laser cleaning architectural terra cotta, iron stain removal and bioremediation on limestone, and ultra-high-pressure water blasting bronze statuary. Completed in-house treatments of a fire-damaged gilt harp, an acrylic kinetic sculpture, archaeological iron, and architectural bronze.*

### Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design

2008 Summer Graduate Intern in Conservation

*Completed final phase in multi-year conservation project of architectural interior of early 18<sup>th</sup>- century Damascus Room. Treatment included consolidation, loss compensation, and inpainting of decorative layers of gesso, gilding, paint, and glazes. Worked independently to determine treatment goals, preventive conservation needs, and museum staff recommendations.*

### William A. Lewin Conservator, LLC

2006—2007 Conservation Assistant

*Learned traditional craft and modern conservation approaches to oil and water gilding. Conducted consultations to DC-Baltimore museums and historic sites and assisted in studio management. Main projects included collaborative oil gilding of 20'X30' carved wood frame (US Capitol), water gilding four 18<sup>th</sup>-century French chairs (White House), loss compensation on a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Neoclassical gilded frame (private owner), and oil gilding metal architectural elements (Corcoran Gallery of Art).*

## TEACHING

### Graduate

#### **Inorganic Materials Conservation Block, WUDPAC**

- 2012—present, four-week block during first-year curriculum covering basics of the conservation of glass, ceramics, metals, and stone. Course features guest lectures, field trips, and hands-on practicums.

#### **Objects Conservation Seminars, WUDPAC**

- 2012—present, seminar series for second-year objects majors, open to all second-years. Regularly lead the following topics: values-based decision making in objects conservation; diversity, equity, and inclusion in conservation; stain reduction of ceramics; glass loss compensation; principles of cleaning and coating silver alloys; authenticity and permanence in digital media; care and maintenance of operational cultural objects.

### Invited Talks and Workshops

#### **Sustainability in Conservation: The Future of Conservation**

- 2022 September, panelist during panel discussion moderated by Caitlin Southwick at *Metal 2022*, the 10<sup>th</sup> Interim Meeting of the ICOM-CC Metals Working Group, 5-9 September, Helsinki, Finland

#### **Stain Reduction of Ceramics**

- 2022 August, two 2-day workshops held at University College London and sponsored by the Institute of Conservation Ceramics and Glass Group
- 2021 November, online lecture, sponsored by the Institute of Conservation Ceramics and Glass Group
- 2017 February, lecture at the University of Arizona
- 2015 April, two-day workshop for objects, paintings, paper, and furniture conservators, co-taught with Bruno Pouliot and others at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- 2014 April, daylong workshop for objects conservators co-taught with Bruno Pouliot and others at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Lunder Conservation Center
- 2013 January, daylong workshop for objects conservators co-taught with Bruno Pouliot and others at the Walters Art Museum
- 2012 May, daylong workshop for objects conservators co-taught with Bruno Pouliot and others at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

#### **Ethics in Art Conservation: Through the Eyes of a Taoist Sculpture**

- 2018 November, public lecture at Lewis & Clark College
- 2015 March, lecture to undergraduate Museum Studies class, University of Delaware
- 2012 March, lecture to undergraduate Conservation Science class, University of Delaware
- 2010 November, lecture at Princeton University for a PhD and Graduate Workshop on Ming Sculptures

#### **Ceramic Making Across Borders: Insight into the Influence of Porcelain through Conservation Science**

- 2015 June, lecture for NYU Summer Institute in Technical Art History: Material Movement: Global Artistic Interdependencies and Exchanges"

#### **Collecting with Care: Ivory in the Decorative Arts**

- 2014 November, workshop instructor with Ann Wagner for Winterthur's Collector's Circle Annual Meeting

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

- 2013 January, lecture at the New York Ceramics Fair
- 2011 April, Lightning Round talk at the ANAGPIC Annual Meeting, hosted by WUDPAC, 16 April 2011
- 2011 September, lecture for the Delaware Chapter of the English Speaking Union's lecture series

### Departmental Talks

#### **Conservation of Garden Objects at Winterthur**

- 2022 January, presentation to museum guides
- 2021 June, donor walk for "Cocktails in the Gardens"

- 2021 April, virtual lecture to members
- 2018 August, public walking tour for Winterthur's *After Hours* event
- 2017 September, talk to members for Garden Insider series
- 2016 November, talk to members for Garden Insider series

#### Looking at Ceramics and Glass with an Objects Conservator

- 2017 November, special workshop for members

#### The Technology of Color: Looking at Polychrome Enamelled Ceramics

- 2015 November, workshop instructor for Winterthur's Collector's Circle Annual Meeting

#### Cleaning Principles and Options for Chinese Export Lacquer

- 2015 October, demonstration during Exotic Surfaces: Chinese Export Lacquer Symposium

## PUBLICATIONS

- Shulman, Katie, and Lauren Fair. 2022. "Investigating Accepted and Innovative Materials for Glass Fills." Invited 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." Invited 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.

## GRANTS

### National Endowment for the Humanities

2023 Preservation and Access Education and Training Grant, \*in submission  
\$250,000 (with additional \$100,000 in 1:1 matching support) to support WUDPAC graduate students

### National Endowment for the Humanities

2019 Preservation and Access Education and Training Grant  
\$350,000 to support WUDPAC graduate students

### National Endowment for the Humanities

2017 Preservation and Access Education and Training Grant  
\$150,000 (with additional \$25,000 in 1:1 matching support) to support WUDPAC graduate students

### Gabo Trust for Sculpture Conservation

2014 Travel Grant  
\$600 to attend Aluminum: History, Technology and Conservation, Washington DC, 7-9 April 2014

### George Stout Scholarship

2010 Travel Grant for Conference Attendance  
\$1,000 to attend Conservation and the Eastern Mediterranean, IIC's Congress, Istanbul, Turkey, 20-24 September 2010

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

### Friends of Barnard Station

- 2021—present, Advisor to the Board, helping establish a heritage center interpreting abolitionist history in Pennsylvania's Chester County and the home as a stop on the Underground Railroad

### Inclusive Conservation Education for ANAGPIC Faculty

- 2020 August, Co-organizer of two training sessions for faculty of the Association of North American Graduate Programs in Conservation (ANAGPIC), led by Ama Codjoe and sponsored by ANAGPIC and WUDPAC, 10-11 August 2020

### International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation

- 2017—present, Coordinator, Glass and Ceramics Working Group
- 2014—2017, Assistant Coordinator, Glass and Ceramics Working Group
- 2008—present, Member

*As Coordinator, organized Interim Meetings in 2022 at the Pharmacy Museum in Lisbon (and online) and in 2019 at the British Museum in London, as well as thematic sessions during Triennial Conferences. As Assistant Coordinator, helped organize the 2016 Interim Meeting in Wroclaw and co-edited conference preprints. Serves on scientific committee for all related contributions.*

### A Facilitated Conversation About Inclusion and Equity in Conservation and Preservation

- 2017 May, Co-organizer of pre-conference 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 2017

### **American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works**

- 2016—present, Professional Associate
- 2007—2016, Member

*Serves as periodic reviewer for contributions to the Objects Specialty Group.*

### **Society of Winterthur Fellows**

- 2016—2022, Board Member and web designer and manager for [www.sowf.org](http://www.sowf.org)
- 2007—present, 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

### **Maryland Institute College of Art**

2006                    Continuing Education  
Oil Painting

### **University of Delaware**

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

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

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

- 2021 October, training led by Dr. Nicole Robinson and Cultural Connections by Design, sponsored by AIC

### **Indigenous Futures and Collaborative Conservation**

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

### **Days of Fire**

- 2018 September, 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 2018

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

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

### **3D Photogrammetry**

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

### **Cleaning of Decorative and Historic Finishes**

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

### **Influencing for Impact: Leadership Strategies for Success**

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

### **Standards for Cleaning Masonry Buildings**

- 2014 October, 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 2014

### **Introduction to Identification of Aluminum Alloys and Finishes**

- 2014 April, 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 2014

### **Highlight Reflectance Transformation Imaging**

- 2013 January, weeklong course taught by Cultural Heritage Imaging, Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, DE

### **Traditional Gilding and Conservation of Gilt Wooden Objects**

- 2011 October, workshop taught by Marie Dubost at Winterthur Museum