

THE WINTERTHUR/UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE PROGRAM IN ART CONSERVATION

Class of 2028

The Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation is pleased to highlight the accomplishments of our first-year students, the Class of 2028. The incoming fellows have engaged in scholarship, pre-program conservation experience, scientific research, and community outreach that prepare them to excel at WUDPAC and further their careers as conservators. Their wide-ranging interests include treatment and analytical techniques, community engagement, conservation ethics, and environmental sustainability. They have cared for material culture in 33 institutions, including museums, cultural and historical centers, libraries, government agencies, and private practices. Their treatment experiences span a wide variety of media and materials, such as textiles, ceramics, works on paper, books, archival materials, furniture, paintings, outdoor sculpture, murals, basketry, metals, stone, glass, plastics, plaster, and archaeological materials. They are eager to continue developing their skills and deepening their commitment to the field of cultural heritage preservation while working and studying at WUDPAC.



KAT BAGANSKI (*she/her/hers*)

Kat graduated from the College of William & Mary (W&M) in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and environmental policy. At W&M, she engaged in coursework encompassing a broad range of topics, including archaeological methods, global cultures, Indigenous sovereignty, and environmental conservation. Her studies reinforced her interest in material culture and also instilled in her a firm belief in the importance of community

engagement, repatriation, and sustainability. Following the completion of her degree, Kat was employed as a professional archaeologist focused on Cultural Resource Management (CRM) archaeology across upstate New York. At the same time, she spent her weekends interning with private practice conservator Gabriel Dunn at unDunn Art Services. Eager to continue her development as a conservator, Kat pursued additional private practice placements, working with furniture conservator Barrett Keating (Barrett M. Keating Conservators) and textile conservator Camille Breeze (Museum Textile Services). Most recently, Kat has taken on the role of Archaeological Collections Coordinator at Mead & Hunt's (formerly Dovetail Cultural Resource Group) Fredericksburg, Virginia office. There, she has overseen the treatment, interpretation, and housing of over 100,000 artifacts from Mid-Atlantic archaeological sites. Aside from her professional activities, Kat is an avid reader, amateur birder, and fledgling ballet dancer.



ADAM CHIN BLAHNIK (*he/him/his*)

Adam graduated from the University of Florida in 2023, earning a B.S. in Chemistry and a B.A. in Art History. During his undergraduate career, he gained collections experience by working in registration, preparation, and visitor services at various museums throughout Florida. After graduating, a cross-country move led him to Los Angeles to participate in the Getty Post-Baccalaureate Conservation Internship, hosted by two institutions. At the Getty Research

Institute, he trained in paper conservation while treating works from the Claes Oldenburg and Coosje Van Bruggen archive for exhibition, digitization, and storage. At the Fowler Museum at UCLA, he gained experience with organic objects, such as an Andean quipu, an Asante gilded staff, and Hopi katsinam. After the internship, he remained in L.A. for various projects. As the Conservation Technician at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, he managed the preventive conservation program and contributed to exhibition preparation, treating objects such as the sole remaining cast from the shark mold used in *Jaws* (1975) and a plaster life cast of Fred Astaire. Most recently, he assisted with the conservation of a barrack from the Heart Mountain internment camp, housed at the Japanese American National Museum.



DANIELLA BULACK (*she/her/hers*)

Daniella graduated from Temple University with a B.A. in Art History and a minor in Chemistry in 2022. She was first introduced to the field of art conservation during an introductory Art History course at Delaware County Community College, which sparked her interest early in her undergraduate career. In 2021, she began her pre-program training as Conservation Intern in the Conservation for Works of Art on Paper Lab at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA). Under

the guidance of senior paper conservators, she performed documentation, testing and analysis, and treatment on a variety of paper objects, including a 16th-century engraving by Diana Scultori and a group of ten monumental Soviet anti-Nazi posters. Later, she began her role as Conservation Technician for Gallery and Storage Maintenance at the PMA, supplementing her treatment experience gained in the Lab with a deeper understanding of preventive conservation. Beyond her conservation experience, she also participated in workshops and classes specializing in various artistic media, including manuscript illumination, lithography, and leather bookbinding to continually deepen her knowledge of artistic materials and techniques. In 2024, she presented some of her historical research and conservation treatment at the Philadelphia Area Conservation Association's Fall General Meeting & Conference.



ELLIE FITZGERALD (*she/her/hers*)

Ellie graduated from the University of Connecticut's Honors Program in 2022 with a B.A. in Art History and Arts Administration. Through her pre-program academic, professional, and community service experiences, she has developed a perspective on conservation rooted in public service, material culture study, and sustainability. Ellie's conservation journey began at UConn in 2019. As a student worker in the campus library's lab, she was trained on book and paper

conservation and quickly fell in love with the field. After graduating, she returned to UConn as the Conservation Technician from 2022 to 2024, where she gained experience in treatment, preventive conservation, outreach, teaching, and emergency response. Most recently, her NCPE internship with the National Park Service has expanded her treatment skills and analytical techniques for book, paper, textile, and wooden objects. She is an alum of Historic Deerfield's Summer Fellowship Program in Material Culture & Public History and has prepared for graduate study with professional development through institutions like the North Bennett Street School and Beloit College. Ellie is most enthusiastic about the conservation of use objects and leveraging interdisciplinary tools to create practical, sustainable solutions to preservation problems. Outside the lab, you can find Ellie hiking, cross-country skiing, and thrifting!



YULIMAR LUNA COLÓN (*she/her/hers*)

Yuli's passion for conservation began after touring the Anton J. Konrad Conservation Center at the Museo de Arte de Ponce, in her home island of Puerto Rico. She graduated from the University of Delaware in 2022 with a BA in Art Conservation and Art History. As an undergraduate, she gained experience in conservation through coursework and internships, including work at the paintings lab at Winterthur Museum Garden & Library.

She also served as a teaching assistant for the Preservation of Photographic Collections Workshop at the Cultural Heritage Archives in Puerto Rico, which sparked her interest in conservation outreach. In her senior year, she received the David J. Toman Award in Conservation and completed a thesis with distinction on art conservation in Puerto Rican cultural institutions.

Since graduating, she has broadened her practical and outreach experience through internship and technician roles at the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, Getty Conservation Institute, Centro de Conservación y Restauración de Puerto Rico, the Autry Museum of the American West, the Arts Division of LA County, the Lucas Museum, Site and Studio LLC, and ArtCare Conservation LA. Her work has included projects in paintings, objects, murals, metals, outdoor sculpture, and preventive conservation. She also has experience in IPM, environmental monitoring, and preventive tools. Her interests include conservation education, outreach, and the integration of new technologies in preservation practice.



MALERY NGUYEN (*she/her/hers*)

Malery earned her Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Brown University in 2021. During her studies of the built environment, she fortuitously discovered a wonder for the material history of books and paper as structures in their own right. Her interdisciplinary research thus delved into Southeast Asian papermaking and the material print culture of the region. She was awarded the Jack Ringer Summer in Southeast Asia Fellowship (2020) to continue her investigations

of papermaking, then the Art-In-Education artist residency at Women's Studio Workshop (2023) where she activated her research to teach papermaking to local grade school students. After graduating, Malery joined a private practice conservation studio in New York City, where she treated a variety of works on paper and textiles ranging from a late-19th-century album of Chicago newspaper clippings to a Tibetan thangka. In 2024, Malery joined the Collection Management department at the New York Public Library (NYPL), where she contributed her treatment experience toward rehousing and relocating 12,000 rare books and manuscripts in the library's special collections. Her work at NYPL also allowed her to develop essential preventive conservation skills in integrated pest management, environmental monitoring, and surveying the special collections. Malery is a keen advocate for representation, diversity, and ethics in the cultural heritage field.



KAYLIE SAGARA (*she/her/hers*)

Kaylie Sagara was first introduced to the field of cultural heritage through a Getty Marrow Undergraduate Internship in 2019. After she graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2020 with a dual BA in art history and anthropology, she went on to gain further experience in art conservation at private studios and museums throughout Northern and Southern California. After spending a year at a private textile conservation studio in Half

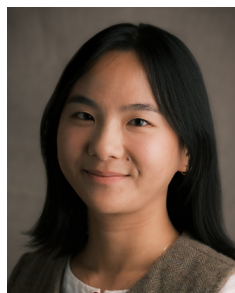
Moon Bay, Kaylie secured a spot in the 2021-2022 Getty Post-Baccalaureate Conservation Internship program. During this time, she treated photographs and works on paper at the Getty Center, then helped with textile and basket treatments, exhibition costume dressing, and mannequin-making at the Autry Museum of the Southwest for the 2022 exhibition "Dress Codes." She further honed in on her costume dressing skills while working as a conservation technician for the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures during the preparation for the 2023 exhibition "John Waters: Pope of Trash." Most recently during her time at Preservation Arts in Oakland, Kaylie worked on several large-scale conservation projects, including the conservation of ten life-size wax figures for the California School of the Deaf, and treatments for a 16th-century tapestry from the Filoli Historic House in Woodside, CA.



AMY TROMPETER (*she/her/hers*)

Amy graduated from Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) with a BFA in Integrated Studio Arts in 2014. While at MIAD, she interned at the Portrait Society Gallery of Contemporary Art, and following graduation, she worked in visitor services at the Charles Allis & Villa Terrace Decorative Art Museums. After relocating to Philadelphia in 2015, she pursued a career in specialty coffee, wrote reviews for the online art-writing platform

Title Magazine, and continued to create art. Her coffee career led her to compete in the 2018 National Barista Championship, which uncovered a fascination with science and problem-solving. She first encountered art conservation while researching the work of Hieronymus Bosch and Pieter Bruegel in preparation for one of her paintings. In pursuit of a career in art conservation, Amy worked as an Art Handler at Atelier Fine Art Services, where she learned a wide range of conservation-related skills. Amy trained as a Conservation and Gallery Maintenance Technician at the Penn Museum, where she practiced preventative conservation and treatment of archaeological and ethnographic objects. Amy currently serves as an ECPN Communications Co-officer. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, darkroom photography, and caring for her senior cat, Mr. Baby Cat.



MEIMEI XU (*she/her/hers*)

Meimei Xu graduated from the University of Virginia with a BA in Cognitive Science and Anthropology. She discovered the field of cultural heritage conservation from a public tour at the Smithsonian Lunder Conservation Center towards the end of her time in college. Since graduating, she has worked as an Assistant Registrar at the University of Virginia's Fralin Museum of Art where she coordinated access to the collection, assisted with rehousing and

cataloguing efforts, and was involved in exhibition installations. During that time, she worked at the University of Virginia's Shannon Library conservation lab where she mended 19th-century Chinese literature books in Special Collections and treated books in the circulating collection. More recently, Meimei was the NEH Conservation Junior Fellow at the Harvard Art Museums' Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies where she rotated through objects, paper, and paintings labs while participating in technical analysis, completing numerous treatments for drawings and prints on paper, photographs, ceramics, metals, lacquered objects, paintings, and frames. Meimei is interested in diversity and sustainability in conservation, hoping to pursue studying abroad opportunities to learn about conservation in other countries. In her free time, Meimei enjoys reading, learning new fiber arts techniques, and traveling to explore hiking and camping adventures.



MARA YELLA (*she/her/hers*)

Mara graduated summa cum laude from Vanderbilt University in 2023, double majoring in Chemistry and Classical and Mediterranean Studies. She decided to pursue art conservation after a field season at Caesarea Maritima and an internship at the US NHC's Underwater Archaeology Branch where she stabilized and documented artifacts from the Revolutionary War era *Royal Savage* shipwreck. Hoping to gain more hands-on experience, she worked at the

Nashville Parthenon treating their plaster casts of the Parthenon Marbles. After graduating, Mara spent a year as a research associate at the Icahn School of Medicine, performing untargeted metabolomics protocols. Working her way back to conservation, she was the year-long conservation intern at the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 2024-2025. There, she treated decorative arts, archaeological materials, and furniture with the Department of Objects Conservation. She also worked with mountmakers and assisted with installations for the Department of Arms & Armor and for the newly opened Michael C. Rockefeller Wing. While at WUDPAC, she looks forward to engaging with the public, advocating for the field, and learning more about applications for scientific instrumentation in conservation. In her free time, Mara is usually crocheting, exploring new museums, or hosting bar trivia nights.



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