



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

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CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

- July 2019–Present      **Objects Conservator and Affiliated Assistant Professor**  
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library and Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC) – Winterthur, DE  
  
At Winterthur, preserving three-dimensional objects in the museum collection: conducting technical examinations and treatment, and consulting on proper handling, storage, transport, and exhibition requirements. For WUDPAC, leading the Organic Block portion of the 1st-year curriculum, covering plant materials, skin/leather, keratins, ivory, bone, and related materials, and plastics; supervising 2nd- and 3rd-year objects majors; serving on student advisory committees; teaching advanced seminars on specialized topics, including conservation of skin/leather, basketry, feathers, and plastics, ethical issues in the care of modern/contemporary collections and objects from indigenous cultures, and opening a conservation private practice.
- January 2005–Present      **Freelance Conservator**  
Baltimore, MD (1/05 – 12/18); Philadelphia, PA (1/19 – Present)  
  
Working as an independent conservator for institutions, galleries, and private individuals. Services include examination, treatment, surveys, art historical research, and sampling/testing of art and artifacts made of a wide range of materials (glass, ceramics, stone, plaster, metals, lacquer, wood and other plant materials, skin and leather, horn, tortoiseshell, feather, ivory, bone, shell, rubber, and plastics), as well as consultation and preparing objects for storage, transportation, and exhibition. See attached Addendum for a list of institutional projects.
- September 2003–December 2004      **Post-Graduate Mellon Fellow**  
National Museum of the American Indian, Cultural Resources Center – Suitland, MD  
  
Performed treatments, undertook preventive activities, and participated in tribal consultations related to objects selected for the Museum’s 2004 opening on the National Mall and a 2005 exhibit on Northwest Coast materials.
- September 2002–August 2003      **3rd-Year Conservation Graduate Intern**  
Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona (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, and participated in research using XRF to detect pesticide residues. 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.
- June 2002–August 2002      **2nd-Year Conservation Graduate Summer Intern**  
The Sheldon Jackson Museum – Sitka, AK  
  
Conserved a late 19th c. Athabascan birch bark canoe.
- June 2000–August 2001      **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 Houdon terracotta and a 15th c. masterpiece clock.
- February 1999–February 2001      **Architectural Conservation Technician**  
National Park Service Washington Monument Restoration Project – Washington, DC  
  
Joined a team of conservators documenting and treating the 193 historic commemorative stone tablets within the Monument.

June–August 1999	<b>Contract Conservation Technician</b> National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution – Washington, DC  Documented and conducted initial treatments on a series of four reinforced concrete screens by Nigerian folk artist Adebisi Akanji.
August 1998–January 1999	<b>Conservation Volunteer</b> The Walters Art Museum – Baltimore, MD  Assisted with the de-installation and cleaning of a series of Egyptian granite reliefs as part a building-wide 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.
June–September 1997	<b>Pre-Program Conservation Intern</b> Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute, Museum Support Center – Suitland, MD  Participated in the ongoing conservation of an 18th c. English japanned clock; received training and attended professional workshops in paper, paintings, and furniture conservation, as well as textile stain removal, varnish, woodworking, adhesives, and polychrome religious sculpture.
December 1994– January 1995; June–August 1993	<b>Conservation Volunteer</b> 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; assisted in maintaining emergency preparedness kits.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Adjunct Faculty

- Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation, Winterthur, DE (2007-2019): supervised 2<sup>nd</sup>-year student treatment projects; taught/co-taught seminars on advanced topics in objects conservation for organic and inorganic materials; assisted with teaching 1<sup>st</sup>-year students during Organic Block, ultimately leading it (starting in 2017); sat on student advisory committees; participated in ongoing research projects; maintained lab spaces.
- Corcoran College of Art + Design, Washington, DC (2013): co-taught a semester-long course on the basics of conservation and art handling to Master of Arts in Exhibition Design students.
- Towson University, Towson, MD (2008, 2009): developed and taught a semester-long course on the care and handling of museum objects to undergraduates and BFA students.

### Guest Speaker

- Towson University – lectures: Care of Organic Materials; Care of Inorganic Materials (delivered 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018)
- Johns Hopkins University – lecture: Conservation and Material Properties of Organic and Inorganic Materials (delivered 2016, 2017)
- Maryland Institute of Art and Design – lecture: Careers in the Arts – Introduction to Art Conservation (delivered 2016, 2017)

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## OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

### Training Courses Attended

- Conservation of Plastics Professional Workshop: CCI, June 18–21, 2018
- Optimizing Your Conservation Practice: AIC, May 29, 2013
- National NAGPRA Basics Training: NPS, November 27, 2012
- Mastering Inpainting: AIC/NPS, May 21–25, 2012
- Digital Photography 101 for Conservators: FAIC, April 28–May 26, 2011
- Mitigating Risks: Contracts and Insurance for Conservation: FAIC, July 8–August 6, 2008
- Professional Responsibility for Conservation: FAIC, August 2–29, 2007
- Assessing the Skin: Characterizing the Animal Source, Processing Method, and Deterioration of Museum and Library Objects: AIC/Winterthur, June 25–27, 2007
- Metals Conservation Summer Institute: IMLS/Worcester Polytechnic Inst., May 27– June 7, 2006
- Establishing a Conservation Practice: FAIC, January 26–February 21, 2006
- Conservation of Hurricane-Damaged Vernacular Houses: Heritage Conservation Network, January 23–27, 2006
- Adhesives for Conservation Workshop: September 19–23, 2005
- Spot Testing for Materials Characterization Workshop: FAIC/Campbell Center, October 14–18, 2003

### Professional Activities

- Society of Winterthur Fellows Membership Co-Chair, 2015-2018; 2018-2021
- Peer Reviewer – Journal of Cultural Heritage, 2017; Objects Specialty Group Postprints, 2014
- 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

- Kaplan, Lara. "Organic Materials." In *Caring for Your Cherished Objects: The Winterthur Guide*, edited by Joy Gardiner and Joan Irving. Winterthur, DE: Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, forthcoming.
- Kaplan, Lara, Connie Stromberg, and Antje Neumann. 2017. "Life Saving Measures: The Treatment and Display of a World War I-Era Harlem Hellfighters Gas Mask." Tip presented at the 45<sup>th</sup> AIC Annual Meeting, STASH Flash Session, Chicago, IL, May 29–June 1, 2017.
- "Emerging Conservators in Private Practice." 2015. Participant in an ECPN/CIPP pre-conference panel discussion at the 43<sup>rd</sup> AIC Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, May 13–16, 2015.
- Pouliot, Bruno P., Jennifer Mass, and Lara Kaplan. 2014. "Using XRF for the Identification of Chrome Tanning in Leather." Poster presented at the 42<sup>nd</sup> AIC Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, May 28–31, 2014.
- Kaplan, Lara. 2010. "Stabilizing a Vision: The Investigation and Treatment of Southwestern Pottery at the Barnes Foundation." Poster presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Milwaukee, WI, May 11–14, 2010
- Kaplan, Lara. 2009. "The Conservation of Southwest Pueblo Ceramics at the Barnes Foundation," *Barnes Foundation Newsletter*, Summer.
- Kaplan, Lara, and Judith M. Jacob. 2007. "The Fight to Save Civil War Graffiti: Plaster Consolidation Tests at the Lockwood House, Harpers Ferry, West, Virginia." Paper presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> AIC Annual Meeting, Richmond, VA, April 26–20, 2007.
- Odegaard, Nancy, Leslie Boyer, Melissa J. Huber, Lara Kaplan, Caroline Kunioka, Teresa Moreno, Cheryl Podsiki, Alyce Sadongei, David R. Smith, and Werner Zimmt. 2004. "New Ideas for the Testing, Documentation, and Storage of Objects Previously Treated with Pesticides." In *Objects Specialty Group Postprints, Volume 10, 2003*, compiled by Virginia Greene, David Harvey, and Patricia Griffin. Washington, DC: American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. 33–42.
- Odegaard, Nancy, Melissa J. Huber, Lara Kaplan, Teresa Moreno, and Cheryl Podsiki. 2003. "S.S. White to the Rescue: Salvaging Fire-Damaged Baskets with the S.S. White/Pennwalt Airabrasion Unit." Poster presented at the 31<sup>st</sup> AIC Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA, June 5–9, 2003.
- Kaplan, Lara. 2002. "Conservation Through Investigation: Uncovering the Story of a Japanese Ceremonial Doll." In *Textile Specialty Group Postprints, Volume 12, 2002*. Washington, DC: American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. 105–118.

### Grants and Awards

- FAIC Individual Professional Development Scholarship, awarded to attend the AIC training workshop, Adhesives for Conservation, September 2005.
- FAIC George Stout Memorial Fund, awarded to attend the 31<sup>st</sup> AIC annual meeting, June 2003.
- Dr. Edward and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Travel Award, awarded for travel to the Winterthur Analytical Laboratory to perform technical analysis on archeological metals, May 2003.
- Italy in America Association's Summer Scholarship, awarded to attend the Anglo-American Research Project in Pompeii, an archeological field school co-sponsored by Hunter College, NY and the University of Bradford, UK, June–July 1996.

### Professional Organizations

- American Institute of Conservation for Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), Professional Associate
- International Institute of Conservation (IIC), Member
- International Council of Museums (ICOM), Member
- American Association of Museums (AAM), Member
- Philadelphia Area Conservation Association (PACA), Member