

# Kate Aguirre

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## EDUCATION

### **Buffalo State College, MS in Art Conservation, Class of 2022**

Paintings specialization with a minor in frames

### **The University of Chicago, BA, 2010**

Art History major, Studio Art minor

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## CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

### **The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology**

June 2018 to June 2019, four days a week: Philadelphia, PA

Volunteer Intern: 565.75 hours of conservation experience

Supervisors: Lynn Grant, Julie Lawson, Nina Owczarek, Tessa de Alarcon, Alexis North

- Trained in and practiced the cleaning and reassembly of ceramic vessels from sherds
- Condition reporting and basic treatments of wood and metal objects from Africa
- Created condition maps and cleaned monumental Mesoamerican stone artifacts
- Team member for a Native Alaska repatriation project constructing housing for transport, storage, and community use

### **American Philosophical Society**

Sep. 2017 to May 2018, two days a week: Philadelphia, PA

Book and Paper Intern: 363.5 hours of conservation experience

Supervisors: Anne Downey and Renée Wolcott

- Treated one paper object, one book, and one photograph
- Conducted materials and provenance research; fully reassembled a book, including washing a textblock of 324 pages; created and toned cellulose fills in a salt print photograph
- Took charge of environmental monitoring in Franklin Hall
- Wrote for the APS blog and presented my treatments to my fellow coworkers at a lunchtime talk and to members of the Society during after-hours lab tours

### **The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts**

Nov. 2017 to May 2018, two days a week: Philadelphia, PA

Paintings and Frames Intern: 262 hours of conservation experience

Supervisor: Mary McGinn

- Conserved two oil paintings on canvas and one painted frame, and began treatment on one gilded frame
- Learned and practiced gel cleaning methods, humidification on the suction table, strip lining, gesso and bole making, replacing missing frame ornaments with gesso putty
- Researched in the institutional archives to inform conservation treatments
- Assisted in gallery walk-throughs to check for damage and minor gallery maintenance

### **Carole Abercauph Painting Conservation Ltd.**

Aug. 2015 to Apr. 2018, multiple days a week: Philadelphia, PA

Paintings Intern: 1,054 hours of conservation experience

Supervisor: Carole Abercauph

- Treated nine paintings, three of which required substantial inpainting, ranging from contemporary acrylic paintings to 18<sup>th</sup> century oil paintings
- Wrote condition reports, learned and practiced paintings conservation techniques: surface cleaning, consolidation, tear mending, strip-lining, filling and inpainting paint losses, and varnishing
- Assisted with rehousing and reinstallation of paintings

### **Decorative Arts Conservation LLC**

Jan. 2018, two full weekends, Baltimore, MD

Conservation Technician: 28 hours of conservation experience

Supervisor: Stephanie Hulman

- Team member for the treatment of an ornate plaster ceiling for the front parlor of a 1906 historic house
- Surface cleaned ingrained soot and plasterers' adhesives from the ceiling using dry and aqueous cleaning solutions, and inpainted with color-matched latex house paint

### **The College of Physicians of Philadelphia**

Feb. 2015 to Oct. 2017, multiple days a week, Philadelphia, PA

Collections Care Volunteer: 1,071 hours of conservation experience

Supervisor: Lowell Flanders, previously George Grigonis

- Conducted a condition survey of the portrait collection owned by the College, including written reports, photographic records, and a digital database, to use as the basis for identifying and obtaining grants to fund conservation treatments
- Presented two status reports to the art committee board of the College
- Successfully petitioned for funds to purchase preservation supplies

### **Kristin deGhetaldi**

Summer 2016, two days a week, Newark, DE

Paintings Intern: 30.5 hours of conservation experience

Supervisor: Kristin deGhetaldi

- Photographed, wrote condition reports, and treated three fire-damaged paintings

### **Chicago History Museum**

Jan. 2013 to Jan. 2015, multiple days a week: Chicago, IL

Paper and Photograph Lab Volunteer: 996 hours of conservation experience

Supervisor: Carol Turchan

- Completed structural and aesthetic treatments of museum and library documents, works of art on paper, photographs, and books
- Developed a database to document and track a backlog of objects in the lab
- Member of the Safety Committee: attended meetings and restocked supply cabinets

Objects Volunteer: 192 hours of conservation experience

Supervisor: Maria Paras

- Condition assessments and rehousing of objects from the costume collection, including hair combs and fur coats

## **Kuniej Berry Associates, LLC**

Nov. 2013 to Oct. 2014, two days a week: Chicago, IL

Paintings Intern: 655 hours of conservation experience

Supervisors: Cynthia Kuniej Berry, Christine McIntyre, and Emily Prehoda

- Wrote in-depth condition and treatment reports for clients.
- Learned and practiced structural and aesthetic treatment of oil paintings
- Was responsible for minor treatments of a painted papier-mâché sculpture

## **Van Witt Fine Art Conservation**

October 2013, week-long stay on-site: Overland Park, KS

Paintings Volunteer: 32 hours of conservation experience

Supervisor: Peggy Van Witt

- Wrote condition and treatment reports and observed methods to clean, mend, inpaint, and line paintings on canvas

## **Northwestern University Library**

Summer 2012, three days a week: Evanston, IL

Intern: 172 hours of conservation experience

Supervisor: Susan Russick

- Organized and rehoused a collection of mid-century photographic negatives
- Cleaned and mended a selection of late 20th century paper posters from the Africana collection

## **The Oriental Institute**

Summer 2012, one day a week: Chicago, IL

Rehousing Volunteer: 21 hours of conservation experience

Supervisor: Simona Cristanetti

- Constructed rigid housing trays of Volara and Coroplast for the collection of ancient Mesopotamian coins

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **ECPN Philadelphia Co-Liaison**

I was the co-liaison for the Emerging Conservation Professionals Network chapter in Philadelphia from September 2018 to July 2019. With another pre-programmer, I planned meetings, coordinated events within the region, and supported the pre-program conservation community in the Philadelphia area.

Meetings planned: December 2018 Edit-a-thon meetup in preparation for application season

### **Articles Written and Presentations Given**

2018: *How can you make paint from eggs?* Booth for PAFA at the Philadelphia Science Carnival

Proposed and implemented an interactive demonstration of the creation of egg tempera paint for a family audience at a science festival, assisted by the education department of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts

2018: *Teaching Paper to Swim*, APS blog post

Wrote a blog post for the American Philosophical Society website humorously explaining the basics of washing paper, using a treatment I was completing on a book textblock.

2017: *Conservators Have Nothing to do with Trees*, Brown-Bag Talk at the APS

Gave a lunchtime presentation on the conservation work I had done in Philadelphia prior to joining the American Philosophical Society, and what projects I was currently working on in the paper lab. Fielded questions about ethics and decision-making in conservation, as well as curiosity as to the training process for an up-and-coming conservator.

2017 AIC Annual Meeting Blog

Wrote a summary for one talk presented at the 2017 AIC annual meeting:

- “*What the Folk Happened to Kitty James and Other Folk Tales*” by Nina Roth-Wells

2017: The College of Physicians of Philadelphia: *Update on the Portrait Collection*

Presented to art committee board of the College upon the completion of condition reporting. Spoke on how the preservation funding had been used to start adding backing boards and hanging hardware to the collection. I also alerted them to the necessity of consolidating storage areas to avoid dangerous environmental conditions which had been revealed in the second paintings room. The rearranged storage plan was approved.

2016 AIC Annual Meeting Blog

Wrote summaries for two talks presented at the 2016 AIC annual meeting:

- “*Using Web-Based Projects to Promote Conservation and Engage Diverse Audiences*” by Kristin deGhetaldi and Brian Baade, University of Delaware
- “*The Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy—Rescue and Treatment*” by Carolyn Tomkiewicz, Brooklyn-based Paintings Conservator, and Caitlin Breare, Assistant Conservator of Paintings, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

2015: The College of Physicians of Philadelphia: *Portrait Collection Presentation*

A fellow volunteer and I presented an overview of the state of the paintings and how collections care and conservation would benefit the collection and the College. We received approval for new funds towards the care of the collection.

2014: *The Artist's Mystique: A Materials Study of Chuck Wood's Casein “Oil Paintings”*

The talk outlined my research of the materials and techniques of Chicago artist Chuck Wood, and my plans for a materials database. Presented at the Midwest Regional Conservation Guild annual meeting.

2014 AIC Annual Meeting Blog

Wrote summaries for two talks presented at the 2014 AIC annual meeting:

- “*The Pied Piper of Hamelin: Color and Light in Maxfield Parrish in the Palace Hotel, San Francisco*” by Harriet Irgang Alden, Director/Senior Paintings Conservator, ArtCareNYC
- “*Piet Mondrian: Technical Studies and Treatment*” by Ana Martins, Associate Research Scientist, and Cynthia Albertson, Assistant Conservator, MoMA

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

### Current

American Institute for Conservation: Member since 2012.

- Attended 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2018 annual meetings and volunteered for the Angels Project in 2013 and 2014
- Member of subspecialty Paintings group, both the national and regional chapters of the Emerging Conservators Professional Network (ECPN), and the Wiki project
- Subscribe to the Conservation DistList and the AIC-Paintings mailing list

### Past

Philadelphia Area Conservation Association: Member 2015-2019

Midwest Regional Conservation Guild: Member 2013-15

- Attended and presented at the 2014 Annual Symposium in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Chicago Area Conservation Group: Member 2013-15

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## WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES ATTENDED

“Sturgeon Glue: What’s New?” Workshop

Elena King (Paintings Conservator) Nov. 2014, McCrone Research Institute

Bruker Handheld XRF Workshop

Dr. Bruce Kaiser, (Bruker Corporation, Chief Scientist) May 2014, The Oriental Institute

Condition Assessment Short Course Online Class

Helen Alten (Northern States Conservation Center), Sep. 2013, Museumclasses.org