Art Conservation

University of Delaware®
What is art conservation?

• Art conservation is the field dedicated to preserving cultural property

• Preventive and interventive

• Conservation is an interdisciplinary field that relies heavily on chemistry, art history, history, anthropology, ethics, and art

Laura Sankary cleans a porcelain plate during an internship at UD
Art Conservation at the University of Delaware

• Three programs
  • Undergraduate degree (BA or BS)
  • Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation or WUDPAC (MS) at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library near Wilmington, DE
  • Doctorate in Preservation Studies (PhD)

Miriam-Helene Rudd cleans a painting during an internship with Joyce Hill Stoner at Winterthur Museum
Undergraduate Degree in Art Conservation

• Faculty members are all conservators and conservation scientists

• On-site, hands-on internships, scientific, and materials courses (pre-requisites for graduate school)

• Extensive networking opportunities for external summer and winter session internships

Nick Fandaros reconstructs a large ceramic vessel from Papua New Guinea
Each faculty member is a trained conservator or conservation scientist!

Debra Hess Norris
Photograph Conservator
Chair and Professor of
Photograph Conservation
Unidel Henry Francis du Pont
Chair

Dr. Jocelyn Alcántara–García
Conservation Scientist
Associate Professor

Brian Baade
Paintings Conservator
Assistant Professor

Maddie Hagerman
Objects Conservator
Instructor

Dr. Joyce Hill Stoner
Paintings Conservator
Edward F. and Elizabeth Goodman
Rosenberg Professor of Material Culture
Director, Preservation Studies Doctoral
Program

Nina Owczarek
Objects Conservator
Assistant Professor
An interdisciplinary field

- Common double majors and/or minors
  - Anthropology
  - Apparel Studies
  - Art history
  - Chemistry
  - History
  - Museum Studies

Emma Heath (’19, MSc University College London, Archaeological Science ‘20) works with Dr. Jocelyn Alcántara-García and Marcie Wiggins (PhD Chem ’19, Post Doc at Yale) Image by Evan Krape, University of Delaware
Courses

Old College Hall, home of the Art Conservation Department
Courses

• Foundational courses
  • ARTC 101 Introduction to Conservation
  • ARTC 301 Care and Preservation of Cultural Property 1
  • ARTC 302 Care and Preservation of Cultural Property 2

Students examine a 1920s wedding gown in ARTC 301.
Courses

• Hands-on making and materials courses
  • ARTC 185 Color Mixing and Matching
  • ARTC 280 Studio in the Materials and Techniques of Drawing in the West
  • ARTC 467 Technology of Cultural Materials
  • ARTC 488 Studio Materials and Techniques of Painting I
  • ARTC 489 Studio Materials and Techniques of Painting II

A student reconstruction of Goya’s *Dogs on a Leash*, 1775, created in ARTC 489 Studio Materials and Techniques of Painting II
Courses

• Science
  • ARTC 210 Science of Color Phenomena
  • CHEM 103/104 General Chemistry
  • CHEM 321/322 Organic Chemistry
Courses

- Internships (ARTC 464)
  - In-house internships have included ceramics, glass, metals, organic objects, and textiles
  - Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library - paintings and textiles
Courses

• ARTC 495 Senior Capstone

Kirsten Gobb reconstructs a smashed Wedgwood ceramic basket in Capstone
# Typical Freshman Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTC 101 Art Conservation Intro (1 credit)</td>
<td>Math 114 University Math Requirement (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 110 Critical Reading &amp; Writing (3 credits)</td>
<td>Elective/Breadth Requirement (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>100–level Art History or Anthropology Course (3 credits)</td>
<td>200–400–level Art History/Anthropology Course (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTC 185 Color Mixing and Matching (3 credits)</td>
<td>100–level Foreign Language (4 credits)</td>
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External internships

Historic Odessa Foundation
National Museum of American History Behring Center
Arizona State Museum
The University of Arizona
Smithsonian
WINTERTHUR
Small Data Industries
Gilcrease Museum
Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art
SGPS
Research

• Recent senior thesis topics
  • Miriam-Helene Rudd (expected 2021): Historic and Contemporary Hairwork: An Investigation of Sentiment, Techniques, and Conservation Practices
  • Annabelle Fichtner Camp (2019): Reconstructing Mid-Atlantic Native American Net-Making Technology
  • Claire Martin (2018): The ABCs of Carton Moore–Park
  • Taylor Pearlstein (2018): The Preservation of Memory: Archiving and Assessing The Mission To Protect Cultural Heritage In The Middle East
Students also can publish blog posts on internship experiences and independent research at any time!
Art Conservation Club

- Events throughout the year (this year, virtual)
- "From pumpkin carving contests, to smashing and reassembling pots, to watching movies, to enjoying a piece of watermelon, this club explores fun and interesting aspects of art conservation!"
- Mentorship from Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC) graduate students (bottom left)
Alumni

• 35% go to graduate school for art conservation
• Others become archivists, librarians, art historians, historians, anthropologists, conservation scientists, registrars, collections managers, researchers, historic preservationists

Liz Peirce (BS '09) (MA/Msc, '15 University College London) Assistant Furniture Conservator, Philadelphia Museum of Art

Abigail Thompson (BS '18) Conservation Technician, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Molly Gleeson (BS '02) (MA UCLA/Getty '08), Project Conservator, Penn Museum

Francis Lukezic (BS '08) (MSc, '13 Cardiff University) Objects Conservator, Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab

Julianna Ly (BS '15) (MS '20 WUDPAC), Assistant Conservator of Paintings, Western Centre for the Conservation of Fine Arts, Ltd.
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Matthew Mickletz ('04)
Manager, Preventive Conservation, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

Jackie DeLuca ('14)
Collections Manager for artist Cai Guo-Qiang’s NYC Studio

Davina Kuh Jacobi ('09)
Executive Director of the Whaley House Museum, Detroit

Amanda Shields ('07)
Associate Registrar, Brandywine River Museum

Allison Olson ('97)
Preservation Officer, The National Archives
We look forward to meeting you soon!