

Laura Mina

Winterthur Museum
5105 Kennett Pike
Winterthur, DE 19735
lmina@winterthur.org

Education

MA 2010 Fashion Institute of Technology, NY
Program: Fashion and Textile Studies: History, Theory, Museum Practice
Focus: Conservation
Qualifying Paper:
“Men in Buckram: the Tailoring and Repeated Conservation of a 1740s Man’s Silk Suit”

BS 2000 Northwestern University, IL
Speech, Performance Studies Major

Professional Experience

Aug 2017 to present

Associate Conservator of Textiles & Head of Textile Lab; Affiliated Assistant Professor, WUDPAC
Winterthur Museum, Library and Gardens; University of Delaware

- Responsible for the preservation, treatment, exhibition, and enhanced understanding of textiles in the Winterthur Museum collection
- Teach WUDPAC graduate students Textile Block, supervise second- and third-year textile majors, and serve as advisor to other majors
- Teach textile conservation course for undergraduates at the University of Delaware
- Supervise staff, volunteers, and interns on projects related to textile conservation, exhibition preparation, collection care, and preventive conservation
- Member of WUDPAC Curriculum Committee
- Utilize Ke-Emu software to prepare conservation records for museum and loan objects

Oct 2014 to Aug 2017

Associate Conservator, The Costume Institute
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

- Performed treatments including humidification, stitched and adhesive supports, as well as mechanical, aqueous, and solvent cleaning
- Utilized The Museum System (TMS), Microsoft Office Suite, and Adobe Photoshop software to prepare conservation records for museum objects according to departmental standards, and review existing accession records to determine the need to be updated or revised; includes written descriptions and digital photographs
- Founding member of MMA IPM task force; IPM coordinator for CI; perform anoxic treatments for CI objects
- Team leader collaborating with collections and registrar staff to develop plans for move to new off-site storage, including design of storage furniture and transportation containers

- Assisted with exhibition activities including processing incoming loans, preparing objects for exhibition, mannequin and mount construction, working with couriers, gallery maintenance, deinstallation
- Acted as conservation liaison for all new acquisitions
- Trained and supervise conservation and collections staff and interns on projects ranging from treatments and collections care to chemical lab safety
- Rewrote the CI lab Chemical Hygiene Plan and maintain documents related to chemical inventory
- Assisted with environmental monitoring in gallery and storage spaces
- Performed courier duties for outgoing loans; including loan objects and traveling exhibitions

Feb 2015 to present

Guest Lecturer, School of Graduate Studies

Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, NY

- Prepare all materials for lectures and practical labs that focus on the use of gels, other poultices, and cyclododecane in textile conservation
- Collaborate with other faculty and staff to support broad goals for courses
- Answer student questions via email

Oct 2014 to Dec 2014

Adjunct Professor

Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

- Prepared all materials for the course Costume History: World War I to Present (ARTH 337) including, syllabus, lectures, research projects, and exams
- Assisted students during office hours and via email
- Utilized objects in the Penny and Bob Fox Historic Costume Collection to enrich the students' understanding of the materials and construction techniques of 20th-century fashion
- Created rubric for grading projects and exams

Sept 2011 to Sept 2014

Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Costume and Textiles Conservation

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA

- Collaborated with Conservation, Facilities and Operations Departments in development, writing, and implementation of policy, procedures, and training materials for the Integrated Pest Management Program
- Performed treatments including humidification, stitched and adhesive supports, as well as mechanical, aqueous, and solvent cleaning
- Utilized The Museum System (TMS), Microsoft Office Suite, and Adobe Photoshop software to prepare accession and catalog records for museum objects
- Presented information about the Costume and Textiles collection, collections care practices, and conservation projects through outreach programs aimed at a variety of audiences including museum professionals, adults, as well as college and grade school students
- Trained interns and volunteers in proper handling of museum objects
- Assisted with environmental monitoring as well as low-temperature and anoxic pest mitigation treatments
- Acted as courier for outgoing loans; responsibilities include condition reporting, installation, and packing for shipment
- Developed and constructed new storage mounts for dresses, bodices, skirts, and shoes
- Participated with mannequin dressing, as well as installation and de-installation of costumes and textiles

Oct 2010 to July 2011

Collections Processing Contractor

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

- Documented garments with written descriptions, photographs, and annotated sketches
- Performed remedial treatments including mechanical cleaning, stitched supports, humidification, and enzymatic removal of starch
- Prepared garments and accessories for storage in individual boxes with customized internal supports

Jan 2010 to Sept 2010

Conservation Intern

Museum of the City of New York, New York, NY

- Conserved man's silk suit (coat and waistcoat) c. 1745 with mechanical cleaning, removal of previous adhesive patches, stitched supports, and construction of storage mounts
- Assisted with online exhibition "Worth & Mainbocher" by dressing mannequins for photography and helping Claire Schaeffer document couture sewing techniques
- Treated evening dress worn by Isadora Duncan with stitched supports for display in exhibition "Notorious & Notable: Twentieth Century Women of Style"

June 2010 to Aug 2010

Graduate Summer Intern (paid internship)

Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

- Treated a barkcloth from Fiji with humidification, adhesive consolidation, and support of tears and holes
- Prepared flat mounts for large textiles and a mat from Borneo
- Conserved a Peruvian embroidered cap with wet cleaning and sewn patches
- Assessed several Peruvian miniature feather tunics for an outgoing loan

Sept 2009 to Dec 2009

Conservation Intern

Museum at Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, NY

- Prepared textiles for exhibition with headers or on flat mounts
- Created prop tucker for a 1820s dress in "Night and Day" exhibit
- Built custom boxes and supports for shoe storage

Sept 2008 to May 2010

Collection Monitor, Federal Work Study

Museum at Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, NY

- Aided in a reorganization project of all hanging women's clothes
- Selected garments appropriate for specific research projects
- Maintained organization of hanging storage and study collection

Dec 2008 to Sept 2009

Conservation Intern

Textile Conservation Lab

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, NY

- Applied patches, supports, and linings to tapestries (17th - 20th CE)
- Mended broken warps, closed slits, and performed tabby weaving
- Participated in mechanical and wet cleaning treatments of tapestries and carpets
- Assisted with conservation of a settee with needlepoint upholstery
- Participated in a tapestry rotation at Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

Aug 2007 to July 2008

Textile Intern

Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA

- Cataloged menswear collection with description, dates, and condition reports
- Assisted with reorganization of civilian menswear
- Researched historical, personal, and manufacturer information

Jan 2005 to July 2007

Assistant to the Costume Designer, Stitcher

Goodman Theatre, Chicago, IL

- Constructed and altered garments utilizing machine and hand sewing
- Assisted the designer in procuring costumes and materials
- Supported the shop manager with budget projections and tracking

Jan 2002 to Aug 2004

Museum Educator

Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA

- Gave tours of an ante-bellum farm and other exhibits for a variety of groups including children and college students
- Wrote manual for the Farm Life Tour and created new tour structure
- Built period clothing for museum educators
- Assisted the curator of textiles with research for exhibit, "Gone with the Girdle: Freedom, Restraint and Power in Women's Dress"

Papers, Presentations, Posters, Exhibitions

Mina, Laura and Geneva Griswold. 2017 "Dangerous Detergents? Health and Safety answers for surfactant questions." AIC News 42 (3): 16-19. - Article for Health & Safety Committee

Breitung, Eric, Laura Mina, and Elena Torok. "A Review and Comparison of Anoxic Treatment Methods for Pest Management" - Panel discussion at the American Institute of Conservation 45th Annual meeting, May 2017

Mina, Laura. 2016. "The Dangers of Dust Bunnies - Protect yourself During IPM-related Cleaning." AIC News 41 (4): 19-20. - Article for Health & Safety Committee

Mina, Laura. "Foxy Underpants: Or, the use of chelators, enzymes, and surfactants to remove foxing stains from linen underpants" - Paper presented at the American Institute of Conservation 44nd Annual Meeting, May 2016

Mina, Laura. "IPM at the Costume Institute: guiding principles and practical solutions" - Presentation to staff at a Collection Care Group meeting, May 2016

Morris, Bernice and Laura Mina. "Stretch - The Truth: Patrick Kelly's knit dresses and the stretch, growth and recovery of modern knit fabrics during display at the Philadelphia Museum of Art" - Paper presented at the NATCC, Nov 2015

Mina, Laura and Cassandra Gero. "Hat Mounts for Egg Heads" - Brief paper presentation at the American Institute of Conservation 43rd Annual Meeting, May 2015

Reiter, Sara, Bernice Morris, and Laura Mina. "Care and Preservation of Textiles" - Lecture and workshop for museum professionals, Sept 2014 and Sept 2012

Mina, Laura and Lisa Stockebrand. "If the Shoe Doesn't Fit" - STASH presentation at the American Institute of Conservation 42nd Annual Meeting, May 2014

Mina, Laura. "Fiber Forensics" - Presentation to grade school students as part of the Philadelphia Museum of Art Delphi Art Program, Feb 2014

Mina, Laura and Laura Camerlengo. "Behind the Seams: Working with the Costume and Textiles Collection" - Public lecture at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, May 2013

Mina, Laura and Eliza Spaulding. "Pest Management At The PMA: Recent Developments" - Series of PowerPoint presentations tailored for all staff, custodial, and security departments, July 2012

Sahmel, Kate and Laura Mina. "Removing Dye Bleed From A Sampler: New Methods For An Old Problem" - Paper presented at the American Institute of Conservation 40th Annual Meeting, May 2012

Ballard, Mary W., Laura Mina, Marei Hacke, and Robert J. Speakman. "Portable And Micro-XRF: A Non-Destructive Way To Screen Textiles And Identify Mordants" - Poster presented at the Dyes in History and Archaeology: 30, Oct 2011

Mina, Laura. "The Observer Effect In Conservation: Changes In Perception And Treatment Of A Man's Silk Suit c. 1745" - Paper presented at the American Institute of Conservation 39th Annual Meeting, June 2011

Mina, Laura, Stephanie Spence, and Cathy Zaret. "From Scrunched To Scrumptious: Treatment Of An Evening Gown From The NMAAHC" - Presentation at the Washington Conservation Guild Meeting, Dec 2010

Mina, Laura. "If These Textiles Could Talk: Creation, Exhibition, And Conservation Of Objects In The AAOA Galleries" - Gallery Talk at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, July 2010

Mina, Laura. "The Fashion For Franklin: A New American In Paris" - Paper presented at the Fashion Institute of Technology Fashion and Textile Graduate Studies Symposium, May 2010

Byrd, Sara and Laura Mina (co-curators). "Scandal Sandals & Lady Slippers: A History Of Delman Shoes" - Graduate student exhibition at the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, March - April 2010

Mina, Laura. "Sparkles And Shimmies: The History Of Raks Sharki Costumes" – Paper presented at the Costume Society of America SE Regional Conference, Feb 2008

Additional Training

Conservation of Plastics Professional Workshop by Yvonne Shashoua, PhD at the Pratt Institute (Oct 2018)

The Meaning of Structure/The Structure of Meaning: a workshop on ancient Andean textiles by Mary Frame at the Cleveland Museum of Art (Dec 2012)

A Day in Figured Velvet: Technique, Pattern, Loom by Julie Holyoke of the Lisio Foundation at the Textile Society of America Symposium (Sept 2012)

Oriental Carpets at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) with Walter Denny, Professor of Art History, University of Massachusetts Amherst: a 2-day survey of the PMA collection, staff workshop, and 2 public lectures (June 2012)

Aqueous, solvent, and gel cleaning treatments for textiles and papers workshop with Richard Wolbers, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Science, Winterthur/University of Delaware Department of Art Conservation (Nov 2011)

Modular Cleaning Program Workshop with Chris Stavroudis, Painting Conservator (Oct 2011)

State of Maryland Pest Management Certification in General, Structural, and Fumigation (2011 – 2014)

Drycleaning & Laundry Institution certification in stain removal (2011)

Additional Conservation Skills

Fiber identification, including surface morphology, polarized light microscopy, and FTIR

Sewing, including pattern drafting, draping, and use of industrial machines

Dyeing with synthetic and natural dyes; color-matching with textile paints

Mordant identification using portable and micro-XRF

Documentation, including digital photography and scale drawings

Mannequin and mount construction using Ethafoam, buckram, Fosshape, and Vivak

Affiliations

American Institute of Conservation, Professional Associate

Textile Specialty Group Chair (2017-18), Textile Specialty Group Vice Chair (2016-17), member of Health & Safety Committee (2015-present)

Textile Society of America

Costume Society of America

Integrated Pest Management Working Group

Computer Skills

TMS, Ke-Emu, ARGUS

Microsoft Office Suite, Mac OS, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Acrobat

Languages (research proficiency)

French

German