

# THE WINTERTHUR/UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE PROGRAM IN ART CONSERVATION

*Class of 2026*

The Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation is pleased to highlight the accomplishments of our first-year students, the Class of 2026. They bring unique combinations of pre-program experience, community outreach, and scientific research to the WUDPAC program, with conservation and collections care experience from 40 different institutions including museums, cultural centers, libraries, and private practices. Their extensive conservation work, diverse backgrounds, and broad interests equip them with the necessary technical and theoretical skills to tackle the many challenges presented in the ever-changing field of cultural heritage preservation. The 2026 Fellows are excited to expand and bolster their conservation education under the guidance of the WUDPAC faculty and extended professional network to grow into conscientious stewards of cultural heritage. The Class of 2026 looks forward to learning from the WUDPAC faculty and visiting professors, and to collaborating with fellow students in order to preserve cultural heritage for years to come.



**ZOE AVERY** (*she/her/hers*)

Zoe graduated summa cum laude from North Carolina State University in 2019 with a BA in Visual Arts and French. She decided to pursue art conservation as an undergrad to fulfill her passion for preserving material culture. She began her pre-program training in 2017 with a paper restoration course at the International Institute for Restoration and Preservation Studies in San Gemini, Italy. After graduation, Zoe secured a Mellon-funded textile conservation internship

at the Smithsonian NMAAHC, where she applied her background in textile arts to conservation treatments. She later explored architectural conservation in Washington, DC, assisting with projects at sites such as the Jefferson Memorial and the U.S. Capitol Building. Seeking experience in objects conservation, Zoe moved to LA for the Getty Post-Bacc internship program. There she treated ancient metals and ceramics at the Getty Villa and modern materials at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Most recently, Zoe worked for Bynon Art Services as a textile conservation technician at the Tennessee State Museum where she participated in a large-scale rehousing and collection move project while pursuing her interest in objects by creating specialized housings for the museum's collection of dolls.



**SAM CALLANTA** (*she/her/hers*)

Sam received her B.A., summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Ursinus College, with East Asian Studies and Theater majors and a Japanese minor. She was a scenic artist, costumer, and carpenter before shifting to cultural heritage preservation. Most recently, Sam was the inaugural NEH Conservation Junior Fellow, the first of three pre-program positions offered by Harvard Art Museums' Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies. Sam has

treated various forms of cultural heritage; however, she always returns to Asian art and cellulosic materials, which culminated in her technical project: scientific analysis, contextual research, and stabilization of two China trade paintings on paper. She assisted with the remounting of a Chinese hanging scroll and has participated in workshops on traditional Japanese artist materials. In 2021, Sam completed the Mellon Diversity in Conservation workshop and was selected for a 2022 Mellon internship at the Cleveland Museum of Art, where she rotated through objects, paper, and Asian painting conservation, and practiced matting and gilding. Sam previously served as a National Council for Preservation Education Paper Conservation Intern at the NPS Harpers Ferry Center. She has presented her work at AIC's 2023 Annual Meeting, as well as at events hosted by the Weissman Preservation Center, the New England Conservation Association, the Mellon Opportunity for Diversity, and the Philadelphia Area Conservation Association.



**LUCA DENEGRE** (*they/them/theirs and he/him/his*)

Luca was introduced to conservation during a teen docent program, when they were given a tour of the labs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Lu studied printmaking and photography at Carnegie Mellon University and graduated in 2018 with their BFA and a minor in chemistry. They gained their first conservation experience working on historic cemeteries and limestone sculpture with an architectural conservation firm.

After graduating, Lu returned to the PMA for an internship in the Modern and Contemporary paintings lab, later working in Gallery Maintenance. They continued their objects experience as an outdoor sculpture conservation intern at the Hirshhorn and since 2020 worked as a conservation technician at the Penn Museum, treating monumental Egyptian Sculpture. They have been able to help facilitate teen programming similar to the experiences that impacted them at both the PMA and the Penn Museum. Lu has also been active in community printmaking spaces and most recently completed the post-grad apprenticeship at the Fabric Workshop and Museum. They serve on the board of the Philadelphia Area Conservation Association and are proud to have been a member of the Organizing Committee of Penn Museum Workers United. They hope to support community histories and the reimagining of institutional priorities and practices in their future career.



**DAISY DIAMOND** (*they/them/theirs and she/her/hers*)

Daisy graduated with a B.A. in Art and Visual Culture from Bates College in Maine. As an undergraduate, Daisy was a Community Engaged Research Fellow, completed one year as a visiting student and Museum Guild Member at Rhode Island School of Design, and collaborated on scientific imaging research. They also were a Conservation Intern at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York

City where they treated a brown sugar and molasses sculpture from Kara Walker's "A Subtlety" installation and assisted with inpainting on works from the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros gift. At MoMA, Daisy realized their passion for scientific analysis, historical memory, and artistic practices was perfectly suited to the field of art conservation. Since graduation, Daisy trained as a Conservation Technician at the Winterthur Museum, Cambridge Arts Council, and Torner Conservation. Daisy is also passionate about community engagement and intangible heritage. They completed a Creative Project Internship researching Jewish conservation practices at The Jewish Museum in New York City, worked as an arts educator at the Center for Justice Innovation in New York City and Fleisher Art Memorial in Philadelphia, and currently contributes to the Environmental Sustainability Subgroup of the AIC Ethics Core Documents Review Committee.

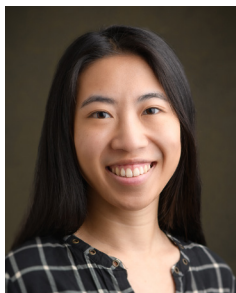


**CAITLYN FONG** (*she/her/hers*)

Caitlyn is passionate about exploring materials and facilitating communities' connections to their material culture. This passion stems from her interest in chemistry and art, combined with her lived experience in the U.S. as an immigrant from Malaysia. She holds a B.A. in Chemistry and a minor in Studio Art from Messiah University. Caitlyn recently interned at the Seattle Art Museum (SAM), where she participated in the collaborative reinstallation of

the American Art galleries. As part of the community advisory group, Caitlyn highlighted the diverse stories embodied in material culture to

paint a more inclusive picture of American Art. In the conservation lab, she worked on a wide range of treatments, from the technical examination and stabilization of 17th-century Inari fox statues to the loss compensation and inpainting of a 20th-century tempera painting. Prior to SAM, she contributed to architectural restoration at the Pennsylvania State Capitol. Caitlyn also participated in the Andrew W. Mellon Workshop for Diversity in Conservation. Outside of work, she enjoys making art, cooking Malaysian dishes, and getting lost in fantasy books.



**SAM LEE** (*she/her/hers*)

Sam discovered the field of art conservation after some frantic late night internet searches on careers that combined her interests in chemistry and art history. Upon graduating cum laude from Seattle University in 2020 with a BA in Chemistry and a minor in Art History, she put her new degree to use as a clinical laboratory technician preparing COVID tests for analysis at the University of Washington, while also assisting conservator Lisa Duncan

with treatments of works of art on paper. Sam has interned and worked as a conservation technician at the National Museum of American History treating, documenting, rehousing, and mounting objects for exhibition under conservator Janice Stagnitto Ellis. There, she came to understand and love the delicate and robust nature of paper as well as its various forms and functions, from paper computer tapes to musical scripts and contemporary protest signs. Most recently, she has gained additional experience in a multidisciplinary conservation studio in San Francisco, working with collections large and small for private clients. In her future career, Sam aims to increase the accessibility of conservation services to marginalized communities and implement community-based approaches to her practice as a conservator in institutions or private practice.



**BINH-AN NGUYEN** (*she/her/hers*)

Binh-An's desire to combine her love for the arts and sciences led her to discover and pursue art conservation as a career. She graduated magna cum laude from Temple University with a BS in Chemistry and minor in Art History in 2022. During her undergraduate career, she worked in a research lab learning how to use various forms of spectroscopy to investigate metal-organic frameworks and other nanoporous materials.

Her pre-program journey started as an intern at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Barnes Foundation, and then as a technician at the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts. She ventured into different specialties that included objects, paintings, preventive, photographs, and paper. She is thankful for the many amazing mentors and colleagues she worked with as they all taught her many new skills: removing tarnish from 18th-century sauceboats, inpainting losses on a Louis XVI-style frame, and cleaning and mending large archival photograph and paper collections. Throughout her career, Binh-An has also been passionate about advocating and supporting underrepresented communities in STEM and will continue doing so in her future endeavors. In her free time, she enjoys knitting, adventuring to her local library, and rewatching episodes of *Murder, She Wrote*.



**TARYN NURSE** (*she/her/hers*)

Taryn graduated magna cum laude with distinction and departmental honors after completing a joint Bachelor's in Biology and Art from Fisk University. Her introduction to Art Conservation began in 2017 through the Yale HBCU STITAH and Winterthur TIP-C programs where she participated in a hands-on treatment of a diorama from the Tuskegee Legacy Museum's collection. After undergraduate study, she participated in the year-long Fisk Museum

Leadership Program and interned at various museums across the country. This program introduced her to multiple areas of museum science including object handling, curatorial and archival studies, museum management, and further conservation experience with outdoor sculptures; it culminated with

presenting at the ICON symposium in Nashville, TN. Taryn also completed a post-graduate Diploma in Secondary Education, specializing in Chemistry, through the University of the Bahamas, but she returned to conservation by participating in the 2022 Winterthur SIP-C program. This opportunity led her to the Brooklyn Museum where she participated in multiple projects including the treatment of an 18th-century Rajasthani Balcony and two Islamic tile spandrels for the museum's reinstallation of its South Asian exhibit. She also participated in the development of the museum's pigment library using multiband imaging. In her free time, Taryn enjoys reading, writing, and painting and is an avid doll collector.



**LEAH FAITH PALMER** (*she/her/hers*)

Leah discovered the field of art conservation while in high school, and obtained a bachelor's degree in Art History from the University of Florida, with minors in Linguistics and Arabic. While there, she worked at UF's Books and Paper Preservation Unit, rehousing pamphlets in the library's collection. After graduation, Leah interned for the National Park Service, completing conservation treatments on objects such as Abraham Lincoln's assassination

garments. She then moved to Chicago for a summer-long rehousing project in the Field Museum's Pacific collection. Her final pre-program position took place at Yale University's Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage. This year-long experience honed her practical and theoretical knowledge of analytical techniques (such as MA-XRF, LIBS, Raman, and more). Leah has discovered a passion for public engagement, creating a conservation YouTube channel that has helped guide multiple students in their pursuit of this field. While at WUDPAC, she hopes to travel abroad to learn more about conservation techniques in other countries. In her free time, you'll find Leah playing Spikeball, making clothes from thrifted textiles, or watching the latest *Star Wars* tv show!



**TATIANA SHANNON** (*she/her/hers*)

Tatiana Shannon graduated from Hampshire College in 2012 with a concentration in Studio Art and American History. Tatiana's career in art conservation began in her final year of undergraduate studies at Hampshire College, when she began volunteering with the Smith College Museum of Art's (SCMA) Frame Conservation Program. Tatiana then moved on to internships and short-term work experiences with the Mark Twain House and Museum,

Excelsior Art Services, and Central Park Conservancy before settling in Somerville, MA in 2018. Since then, Tatiana has interned with the National Park Service, Boston's Museum of African American History, Sculpture and Decorative Arts Conservation Services LLC, Elizabeth Leto-Fulton Painting Conservation LLC, and the Cambridge Arts Council Summer Conservation and Maintenance Program (CAMP), acquiring experience in objects, paintings, and preventive conservation as well as collections management, while volunteering at the Somerville Historical Society for their Collections Care Project. Tatiana joined the ECPN as the Boston-area regional liaison in 2021, has spent the last three years as a voting member of the Somerville Community Preservation Committee, and recently presented at the NECA Regional Annual Intern and Fellows Presentations 2023. In her free time, Tatiana is refining her skills as an enamellist, slowly pursuing a certificate in Botanical Illustration, and is an avid gardener.

