

CATHY SILVERMAN

catherine.silverman@yale.edu

(917) 834-6456

EDUCATION

West Dean College (September 2013 – September 2014)

- Masters of Arts in Conservation of Furniture and Related Objects
- Thesis: “An Investigation into the Ultraviolet Shielding Potential of Paraloid B-72 Coatings Modified with Nano-Zinc Oxide for furniture conservation.”
- Leathersellers Company Educational Award (2014), Anna Plowden Trust Bursary (2013), and Edward James Foundation Scholarship (2013) - Awarded to assist with fees for Masters program.

London Metropolitan University (September 2011 – June 2013)

- Furniture Restoration and Conservation Honors Degree with Distinction
- David Harris Memorial Award (2013). Awarded to a student of conservation in recognition of excellent practical work.
- Sir John Cass Award for Academic Excellence (2012). Faculty-wide award at *London Metropolitan University* for academic excellence.

University of Bristol (September 2003 – June 2007)

- Bachelor of Arts (Joint Hons.) in French and History of Art

CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

Assistant Conservator of Furniture and Objects, *Yale University Art Gallery*, New Haven, CT

September 2019 - present

- Assess and treat objects for exhibitions and reinstalls. Consult with curators regarding appropriate treatment options.
- Consult with exhibitions and collections staff regarding mounting options and appropriate conditions for storage and display.
- Consult with conservation scientists to identify appropriate analytical techniques for examination and materials identification.
- Assess and prepare objects for loan-related travel. Courier objects to domestic borrowing institutions.
- Assess objects for potential acquisition.
- IPM lead for the gallery and representative on cross-institutional *Yale West Campus* IPM committee.
- Train staff and students in dusting, handling and IPM protocols.
- Supervise Hume Furniture Study undergraduate conservation intern. Assist in hiring process and supervision of preprogram and graduate interns and postgraduate fellows.
- Conservation representative on the gallery’s Emergency Preparedness Committee and Gallery Environmental Monitoring Committee.
- Participate in conservation lab tours and deliver conservation-themed talks to the public.

Project Conservator, *Yale University Art Gallery*, New Haven, CT

September 2018 - September 2019

- Carried out all conservation relating to the relocation of The Furniture Study Collection (1200 objects dating from the 17th century to the current day) from basement storage to a new open storage facility at Yale West Campus.
- Surveyed the collection, provided recommendations for handling, packing, storage, and display of objects. Treatment of objects.

Andrew W. Mellon Fellow, Objects Conservation Department, *The Metropolitan Museum of Art*, New York
September 2016 – September 2018 (initially awarded for one year, the fellowship was renewed for a second year).

- Examination, technical study and treatment of Asian lacquer, American and English japanned and polychrome surfaces on wood.
- Assisted with preventative conservation activities including IPM and monitoring of climate-controlled display cases.

Project Conservator, *GV Art Conservation*, New York; *Cliveden Conservation*, Oxford; *Bainbridge Conservation*, London; *Plowden & Smith*, London (several short-term contract positions)
September 2015 – September 2016

- Projects included the conservation of a contemporary sculpture by Maurizio Cattelan created from four animal skeletons, treatment of the coffered oak ceiling and carved polychrome corbels at *Corpus Christi Chapel*, Oxford (for which the team was awarded the Oxford Preservation Trust Award 2017), and treatment of a faux marble interior at *Kew Gardens*, London.

Assistant Furniture Conservator, *Period Furniture Conservation*, New York
September 2014 – September 2015

- Condition assessment, treatment and documentation of objects with a wide range of substrates and finishes. Highlights included treatment of a japanned longcase clock with extensive delamination and carving replacement wings in wax (for casting) for a bronze figure (now on display at *The Getty*).

Furniture Conservation Intern, *Arlington Conservation*, London
April 2014

- Treatment of a Coromandel lacquer screen, Chinese painted screen and gilt chair.

Furniture Conservation Intern, *Apter Fredericks Conservation Studio*, London
December 2013 – January 2014

- Conservation of a set of gilt and upholstered chairs.

Furniture Conservation Intern, *The Wallace Collection*, London
August – September 2013

- Treatment of a secretaire made by Jean Henri Riesener for Marie Antoinette, including cleaning of gilt bronze mounts and stabilization of marquetry decoration.

Project Conservator, *The Royal Opera House*, London
July 2013

- Worked in a team to restore the gilt decoration of the Queen's Retiring Room.

Conservation Intern, *Plowden & Smith*, London
June – September 2012

- Worked on a range of projects in the furniture and decorative surfaces departments. Made armatures and mounts for the exhibition 'Bronze' at *The Royal Academy*.

Pre-program work experience placement, *Textile Conservation Ltd*, Bristol
December 2010 – January 2011

Apprentice, *Sofariot Upholstery Studio*, Bristol
June 2010 – June 2011

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO CAREER CHANGE

2011 - 2014	Literature Manager (part-time) , <i>Liberal Democrats</i> , London
2011	Project Manager , <i>Canopy & Stars</i> (ecotourism start-up), Bristol
2008 - 2011	Campaign Manager , <i>Liberal Democrats</i> , Bristol
July - Oct 2008	Assistant to Project Manager , <i>Oxfam GB Headquarters</i> , Oxford
Summer 2007	Teacher of French Translation , <i>Oxford Intensive School of English</i> , Bristol

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

The Life of the Oloko. Co-authors: Anne Gunnison and James Green. Chapter in 'Bámgbóyè: A Master Sculptor of the Yorùbá Tradition', Yale University Art Gallery (forthcoming – 2022).

The Pursuit of Comfort: Upholstery in America. Co-presenter: Patricia L. Kane. Presented at *Yale University Art Gallery* (online), June 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcCU9JjYRF0&t=3s>

Conservation of an Urhobo Maternity Figure blogpost. <https://artgallery.yale.edu/conservation-urhobo-maternity-figure>

Building a Conservation Partnership between Yale University Art Gallery and National Museum, Lagos during the Global Pandemic. Co-presenters: Nike Niyi-Dare and Geovanni Barrios. Presented at *2021 Virtual AIC & SPNHC Annual Meeting*, May 2021

The Science and Art of Attribution. An Investigation of American Japanned Furniture in *The Metropolitan Museum of Art*. Presented at *Fellows Colloquium: Beneath the Surface*. Metropolitan Museum of Art, May 2018

An Investigation of Eighteenth Century English Japanned Furniture in the Collection of *The Metropolitan Museum of Art*. Co-authors: Adriana Rizzo and Federico Carò. Presented at *European Lacquer in Context*, Brussels, January 2018. Published in *Studies in Conservation*, January 2019. DOI: [10.1080/00393630.2018.1563356](https://doi.org/10.1080/00393630.2018.1563356)

Scanning X-Ray Fluorescence for the Investigation of Japanned Surfaces. Poster presented at *European Lacquer in Context*, Brussels, January 2018

American Japanned Furniture: An Exploration of Materials and Process through Technical Analysis. Presented at *Fellows Colloquium: Technical Art History and Conservation*. Metropolitan Museum of Art, May 2017

An Investigation in the Potential of Paraloid B-72 Modified with Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles as a UV-shielding Clear Coating for the Conservation of Wooden Furniture. Poster presented at *Nanotechnology for Conservation*, Pratt Institute, New York, January 2017

Shagreen. The History and Conservation of Decorative Ray Skin in Furniture. Presented at *Stichting Ebenist 13th International Symposium on Wood and Furniture Conservation*, Amsterdam, November 2016. Published in *Proceedings of Stichting Ebenist 13th International Symposium on Wood and Furniture Conservation: Material Imitation and Imitation Materials in Furniture and Conservation*

The Historic Art of Japanning. Published in *Furniture & Cabinetmaking Magazine*, Issue 237, 2015, pp.60-64

A Shagreen Walking Stick. Published in *ICON News*, Issue 59, 2015, pp.33-36

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Training in SEM-EDX, Raman and FTIR**, *Kline Geology Laboratory, Yale University*, New Haven, CT, October 2021
- **Integrated Pest Management: Trapping and Monitoring**, seminar with Jane Thompson-Webb and David Pinnager through *LAP*, August 2020
- **Museum Lighting: Decision Making for Conservation**, with David Saunders through *LAP*, August 2020
- **Conservation Principles for Large Bronze Objects**, course with Lucy Branch, online, August 2021
- **Patina on Outdoor Copper Alloys**, seminar with Lucy Branch, online through *LAP*, July 2020
- **Pigment Identification with Polarized Light Microscopy**, *The McCrone Group*, Westmont, IL, February 2020
- **Symposium on mahogany**, *Yale University Art Gallery*, New Haven, November 2018
- **New Methods for Cleaning Painted Surfaces**, *Scottish National Gallery of Art*, Edinburgh, July 2017
- **Symposium on Computational Photography and Reflectance Transformation Imaging – *The Metropolitan Museum of Art***, March 2017

- **Nanotechnology for Conservation of Cultural Heritage**, *Pratt Institute*, Brooklyn, January 2017
- **Gilt bronzes conservation study day**, *Frick Collection*, New York, October 2017
- **Woodcarving evening classes**, *Heather Mills Woodcarving Studio*, New York, Sept-Nov 2016
- **Introduction to Corrosion of Metals and Alloys**, *Tate Britain*, London, October 2015
- **Introduction to Leather Conservation**, run by *The Leather Conservation Center* at *West Dean College*, March 2014
- **Tool Technology Training Day**, organized by *BAFRA*, London, April 2013
- **Preventing Pests by IPM**, with David Pinniger at *British Library*, London, February 2013
- **History of Furniture Course**, *V&A*, London, Spring 2013
- **Conservation of Japanning**, with Alex Schouvaloff through *ICON*, Spring 2012
- **Introduction to Japanning**, with Alex Schouvaloff through *ICON*, Autumn 2011

OUTREACH & TEACHING

- Providing training in wood conservation to conservators at *The National Museum, Lagos*, Nigeria, as part of a partnership forged during the planning of an exhibition at *Yale University Art Gallery* on Yoruba sculptor Moshood Olusomo Bámigbóyè (ongoing).
- Running a series of conservation-themed workshops with a colleague for local high school students in collaboration with the NXTHVN apprenticeship program. *Yale University Art Gallery*, from November 2021 (ongoing).
- Assisting with several *Yale University* undergraduate art history classes through presentations as well as examination and analysis of objects, from 2019 (ongoing).
- Headed a tour of Objects Conservation Department at *The Metropolitan Museum of Art* for the *Furniture History Society Early Career Development Group*, May 2017.
- Ran a hands-on conservation workshop for New York high school students with two colleagues as part of *Teens Take the Met. The Metropolitan Museum of Art*, April 2017.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Institute for Conservation (AIC), Wooden Artifacts Group and Objects Specialty Group
Furniture History Society

OTHER SKILLS

Current clean driving license (USA and UK)
Proficient user of Microsoft Office, Photoshop, Bridge, Lightroom and TMS
Degree-level French