

THE WINTERTHUR/UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE PROGRAM IN ART CONSERVATION

Class of 2025

The Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation is pleased to highlight the accomplishments of our first-year students, the Class of 2025. They bring to the program a passion for equity, accessibility, and sustainability in the field of art conservation. Their wide-ranging knowledge and skill sets have prepared them well for the preservation, examination, and treatment of cultural heritage. The WUDPAC Class of 2025 will continue to bridge the gaps between art history, art, and science by expanding their knowledge of practical conservation and ethical considerations. They look forward to learning from the diverse experiences of the faculty and broader network of professionals in order to conserve and promote the importance of cultural heritage.



SARAH BEACH (*she/her/hers*)

Sarah did not discover the intersection of her interests in the decorative arts, material culture, and chemistry until her junior year of college, when she started her conservation pre-program journey at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Working in the Furniture and Frame Lab, she was given a broad foundation in conservation ethics, documentation, and fundamental treatments. Upon graduating Magna Cum Laude from

Salve Regina University with a BA in Cultural and Historic Preservation and a minor in Art History, Sarah pursued work at the Preservation Society of Newport County (PSNC). At the PSNC she participated in the condition survey of a historic house museum's collection, and later worked as a furniture conservation technician on treatment campaigns that were a direct result of this triage-style survey. In 2020, she received a National Council for Preservation Education internship at the National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center. There, she largely treated ferrous and nonferrous metal artifacts but also gained experience in upholstery conservation. Most recently Sarah worked for Bynon Art Services LLC on a rehousing project at the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville, Tennessee; Specifically, she aided in the survey, treatment, and packing of the diverse taxidermy collection. She currently serves on the AIC Sustainability Student Subcommittee and feels strongly about the interconnectivity of the climate crisis and social justice. In her free time Sarah enjoys hiking, playing video games, and making mixed-media collages.



NICOLE CHAUSSE (*she/her/hers*)

Nicole Chausse graduated from the University of Virginia in 2019 with a BA in Chemistry and Archaeology and a minor in Art History. Her first encounter with art conservation was at the Lunder Conservation Center in Washington, D.C. on a public lab tour. Since then, she has mended Tibetan manuscripts in the University of Virginia Libraries, excavated 18th-century artifacts during an archaeological field school at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and interned

in three conservation labs. The Mellon-funded Conservation Internship for Broadening Access brought Nicole to the Smithsonian American Art Museum where she learned about objects, paintings, and conserving art in view of the public. At the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio she co-lead a project on the gel poultice cleaning of a marble cloister with community volunteers. She also treated a medieval stained-glass window while participating in lunchtime Q&A sessions with museum visitors. During her NCPE internship at Harpers Ferry Center in West Virginia she worked on historic objects and artifacts from the National Park Service, and expanded her knowledge of metals, textiles, and organic materials. Nicole is passionate about public outreach and education in conservation, as well as diversity and accessibility in the field. In her free time, she enjoys roller skating, hiking, cooking, and traveling for Lindy Hop swing dance competitions and workshops.



KA YEE CHRISTY CHING (*she/her/hers*)

Christy graduated Magna Cum Laude, Honors with Distinction from the University of Pennsylvania in 2019 with a B.A. in the History of Art and a minor in Material Science and Engineering. Through navigating her identity as a 1.5 generation Chinese American from Hong Kong, she developed a fascination for the many ways both tangible and intangible cultural heritage traversed and transformed across countries and borders. Christy was introduced

to collections care and art conservation through her work-study job at the Architectural Archives and shadowing opportunity at the Penn Museum in 2018. After graduation, she fell in love with conservation while interning for the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where she treated paintings and frames including an 18th-century oil painting painted after Canaletto. Christy returned to the Penn Museum as a conservation and gallery maintenance technician, focusing on archeological and preventive conservation. She treated a variety of objects including salty ceramics, copper alloy fragments with bronze disease, Hopi Kachinas, and ancient Egyptian papyri pages from the Book of the Dead. Her favorite projects outside of treatment involved photogrammetry and pXRF analysis. Aside from conservation, Christy, a cancer survivor herself, is passionate about spreading adolescent and young adult cancer awareness and does so through volunteering for the Kids & Art Foundation.



KACEY GREEN (*she/her/hers*)

Kacey graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and a BA in Art History. After graduating, she studied paper conservation through the International Institute for Restoration and Preservation Studies in San Gemini, Italy. Upon returning to the States, she worked with Historic New England as a Preventive Care Assistant and Project Archivist.

Her experience with preventive conservation soon led to a role as a Collections Maintenance Technician at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. This past summer she interned with the Toledo Museum of Art. During this internship Kacey was able to pursue her passion for equity work through public outreach projects. Her two favorite projects included treating stone arcades with assistance from Toledo community members and treating stained glass windows in a public conservation lab. Kacey has since continued advocating for expanding opportunity, pay, and equality for pre-program interns. She recently presented to the New England Conservation Association, the MFA Boston, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum on redefining equity work in the field of conservation. She also joined the ECPN as the new Communication/Digital Platforms Officer to continue to assist emerging conservation professionals.



EMILY LANDRY (*she/her/hers*)

Before pursuing art conservation, Emily dedicated years to studying art-making, including painting, ceramics, printmaking, and more. She developed professional hand skills by working in production where she hand-applied custom patina finishes to brass for a luxury lighting studio in NYC. To complement her studio art education, she pursued an art history degree from Mills College. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 2015. In her undergraduate thesis, she defended

the critically condemned late-career paintings by Giorgio di Chirico. Her introduction to art conservation was years after finishing her bachelor's degree. While touring the Yale University Art Gallery's conservation lab, she was

both disturbed and deeply excited that the decay of artwork had never played a role in her education. She cut her conservation teeth interning for YUAG where she treated the official portrait of the most decorated dog in American military history, Sergeant Stubby, under the guidance of Irma Passeri and Mark Aronson. Later, at Preservation Arts, a multi-disciplinary private practice in Oakland, CA, she rapidly gained experience performing treatments on a variety of different objects with varying condition issues. Emily's foremost love has always been paintings whether it be making them, studying their history, or treating them.



BRITTANY MURRAY *(she/her/hers)*

Brittany graduated in 2016 from New College of Florida with a BA in Art History. Her senior thesis investigated the history, cultural significance, and conservation of Jan and Hubert van Eyck's *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*. While writing her thesis, Brittany interned in the conservation lab at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, where she performed her first treatment—spit cleaning an early 20th-century ormolu lantern.

Subsequently, Brittany has interned at a number of institutions, including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Glenstone Museum, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. At USHMM, she discovered her love of book and paper conservation. She hopes to one day bring her skillset to her family's native Kingston, Jamaica.



KATHERINE PETERS (KIKI) *(she/her/hers)*

Kiki graduated with distinction from Yale University with a BA in the History of Art in 2020. She was introduced to the field of conservation her Junior year of college, when she began working for the Yale University Art Gallery's conservation department to visualize and analyze data relating to conservation projects. These projects, covering a variety of topics from the formation of efflorescence on American Renaissance paintings to stable isotope ratios in limestone samples, exposed her to the importance

of technical studies in the field of art. Over her four years working for the Gallery, her responsibilities became more hands-on. Under the guidance of the Gallery's conservators—particularly Irma Passeri and Anne Gunnison—Kiki worked on numerous treatments. She gained valuable skills through experiences such as mechanically cleaning surface layers on an Italian Renaissance frame, reconstructing and inpainting a twelfth-century Korean bowl, and filling and inpainting losses on a Modern sculpture made of painted wood. Kiki was additionally responsible for analyzing and cataloging a collection of historical pigments and art materials, performing routine integrated pest management, and assisting the transition of department records onto a new document management system. Overall, Kiki is passionate about conservation ethics, theory, and education.



GIANNA G. PUZZO *(they/them/theirs and she/her/hers)*

Gianna has had a long-held interest in the intersection of art, heritage, and science. In 2015 Gianna graduated from Johns Hopkins University receiving a BA in Art History and a Program in Museums and Society Minor, with advanced coursework in Neuroscience. Gianna interned at the Max Brödel Archive of Medical Illustrations at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the curatorial and conservation

departments of the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. They built a robust understanding of heritage and conservation ethics and methodologies through these experiences and coursework but did not actively pursue the profession until being hired by The Frick Collection in 2016. As the Conservation Assistant, Gianna was responsible for environmental monitoring, microclimate management, collections care, database development, research, documentation, and treatment: much of this work was to assist a collection move and expansion project. They treated a range of objects from gilt-silver to rhinoceros horn, and rehoused objects big and

small from Persian carpets to Renaissance commemorative medals. As a Fellow, Gianna hopes to strengthen their practice in preventive and objects conservation based on equity and sustainability. In their free time Gianna can be found making art from recycled materials, sunbathing at the beach, or filling cannoli at her family's bakery Rispoli Pastry Shop.



LILA REID *(she/her/hers)*

Lila graduated from Hamilton College with a BA in Art History and a minor in Art. She began her pre-program experience at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Objects Conservation department, assisting in treatments for the British Galleries. She continued gaining experience while studying abroad in Florence, Italy, where she completed a course in furniture conservation at Marist College-Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici. Lila assisted artist Elias Sime on

the construction of an outdoor sculpture for the Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art, gaining a better understanding of the relationship between artists and their work. She continued her pre-program experience at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center, where she completed numerous treatments of furniture, frames, objects, and paintings. More recently, she completed an AIC online course in emergency planning, gave a lecture on preventive conservation and art handling for graduate students at Williams College, and completed an Inlay Workshop at the Winterthur Museum for decorative details in wooden furniture. Lila is passionate about outreach and accessibility and looks forward to continuing her journey in art conservation.



RILEY THOMAS *(she/her/hers)*

Riley's interest in conservation began in high school after finding her great-grandfather's violin in an attic and seeing it restored to playing condition by a luthier. She graduated from UD in 2018 with a BA in Art Conservation and Anthropology and a minor in French. As an undergraduate, Riley pursued research-based summer internships including the identification of dyes in Viennese textiles at Winterthur's SRAL and methodologies for determining the

level of deterioration in paper as a Junior Fellow at the Library of Congress. Following graduation, Riley served the community where she grew up as an AmeriCorps - Ohio History Service Corps Member at the Oberlin Heritage Center in Oberlin, OH, while providing support to other small historical societies and museums in the Greater Cleveland area. Working in a historical house museum gave her an appreciation for the decorative arts and other objects that blur the lines between decorative and functional and encouraged her interest in community-centered conservation. She was next a pre-program conservation intern at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), where she treated a variety of materials selected for NMAI's Native New York exhibition. In 2020, Riley returned to school to earn a Certificate in Native American Art History from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Riley's professional interests also include environmental sustainability, conservation science, and ethics. She loves most outdoor activities, baking, reading, learning new crafts, and spoiling her cats.

