



CONSERVATION WORK EXPERIENCE

A.M. Art Conservation, LLC, New York

Conservator in Private Practice

September 2004 - Present

Officially incorporated in 2009 but working in private practice since 2004 A.M. Art Conservation's partners provide preservation consulting, conservation treatment and collection management services to cultural institutions and individuals. References and client list available upon request.

National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, Bronx, NY

Supervisory Conservator & Lab Manager

November 2001-June 2004

Responsible for managing day to day conservation activities associated with the move of the museum's collection from New York to Washington DC. Duties included conducting and overseeing a staff of five in cleaning, documenting, stabilizing, designating pest management procedures and packing archaeological and ethnographic artifacts. Wrote move procedures, directed environmental monitoring, pest management, and video documentation projects, responsible for records and image databases.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Assistant Objects Conservator

September 2000-November 2001

Responsible for preventive and interventive treatment of a wide range of ethnographic and archaeological artifacts with a focus on African objects. Wrote and managed grant, loan and exhibition projects, supervised interns and museum technicians, Expanded the Museum's environmental monitoring program.

Conservation Lab, American Museum of Natural History, New York

Assistant Conservator for Exhibits

September 1997-September 2000

Responsible for the development and execution of conservation duties relating to temporary and permanent exhibits including condition reporting, documentation, analysis, treatment, mount and case design and environmental monitoring. As well as general examination, documentation and treatment of archaeological, ethnographic and natural history objects.

Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities, The British Museum, London, England

Intern

January 1995-July 1997

Responsible for conducting a condition survey, properly packaging, sorting, classifying and accessioning a large collection of excavated finds from 1960's excavations at Petra, Jordan.

Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Graduate Intern

June-August 1996

Carried out conservation treatments on objects from a variety of media (ceramics, glass, stone, wood and copper alloy) for the departments of Greek and Roman Art and the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas. Treatments included cleaning, stabilization, reconstruction, gap-filling and in-painting conducting and interpreting materials analysis.

Center for Conservation and Restoration, Ministry of Education and Culture, Jerusalem, Israel

Intern

August-September 1995

Assisted in the cleaning, conservation and remounting of a large lifted mosaic from the site of Sepphoris, Israel. Prepared the mosaic for museum exhibition and eventual reintegration on-site.

Tel Migne/Ekron Excavations, conducted by Brown University and Hebrew University, Israel

Assistant Conservator

June-August 1995

Conserved and restored excavated artifacts of ceramics, stone, glass, metal, bone and ivory. Assisted in the lifting of artefacts on-site. Responsible for packing finds for travel and devising safe long-term storage.

National Portrait Gallery, London

Museum Technician

January-March 1995

Wrote condition reports and cleaned the museum's sculptures in the museum galleries on a weekly basis.

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Independent Researcher

August-December 1991

Independent research project on painting pigment analysis using polarized light microscopy, x-radiography, IR and PIXE.

RACHAEL PERKINS ARENSTEIN

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Contractual Lecturer

June 1992 – September 2000

Paid lecturer in the museum's Ancient Near Eastern, Egyptian, Greek and Roman and Special Exhibition galleries as well as guide for general museum highlight tours.

Tel Miqne/Ekron Excavations conducted by Brown University and Hebrew University, Israel

Square Supervisor

June-August 1990, 1994, 1995

Responsible for all excavation and record keeping associated with running a grid square during a ten-week archaeological expedition. Trained and supervised volunteers.

W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem, Israel

Research Assistant

March-June 1994

Responsible for proof-checking and collating archaeological data in preparation for publication.

Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem, Israel

Research Assistant

March-June 1994

Assisted in devising ceramic typology for the Iron Age I period at Tel Dan. Responsible for classifying, cataloguing and drawing pottery.

Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Administrative Assistant

June 1992-February 1994

Responsible for administrative and collection management as well as assisting in curatorial projects. Designed a database to enable the department's object collection to be entered on-line. Assisted in all aspects of preparation of catalogue and installation for a major exhibition.

Art, Isotopes and Analysis, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Teaching Assistant

January-May 1992

Assisted teaching a course in conservation theory and technology for 200 undergraduate students. Lectured, conducted weekly office hours, proctored exams and graded tests and weekly assignments. Responsible for conceiving and preparing weekly in-class demonstrations and audio-visual aids relating to conservation.

Aegean Dendrochronology Project, Greece and Turkey

Research Assistant

June-August 1991

Travelled for ten weeks with Cornell University Professor Peter Kuniholm assisting in the excavation, preservation, research and dating of wood samples for analysis at the Weiner Aegean and Near Eastern Dendrochronology Laboratory. Provided the basis for original thesis research and dating of Turkish archaeological site.

Philipsburg Manor, Historic Hudson Valley, Tarrytown, New York

Historical Interpreter

1986-1989

Tour guide at a living history museum. Extensive knowledge of eighteenth century history, livestock, crops and gardens. Demonstrated and taught 18th century crafts. Conducted excavation for 18th century remains.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Object and Archaeological Conservation, First Class Honors Degree

Institute of Archaeology, University College London, England; 1997

Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude, Double Major: Archaeology & Near Eastern Studies

Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences, Ithaca, New York; 1992

Dean's List, Recipient of Hirsch Archaeology Scholarship, New York State Regents Scholarship

ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK & TRAINING

- Assessing Risks To Your Collections, AIC Workshop 2010
- Environmental Monitoring in Museums, AIC Workshop 2008

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- Museum Exhibit Lighting, AIC Workshop 2007
- Use of Digital Technology in Museums, SPNHC Workshop 2003
- Emergency Responses and Mitigation, SPNHC Workshop 2002
- Writing Grant Proposals, Harvard University 2001
- Introduction to Museum Administration, Harvard University 2001
- Design and Function of HVAC Systems, New York City Technical College 2000
- Introduction to Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, New York City Technical College 1999
- Identification of Plastics, AIC Workshop, St. Louis 1999

PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH & WEB RESOURCES

- Content Manager and author of the Paleontology Portal Collection Management website, which provides an overview of best practices for paleontology collections management. Available online at <http://collections.paleo.amnh.org/>. A subsequent PaleoPortal web module on Fossil Preparation will be online May, 2010.
- “Bitten by the Bug: The Integrated Pest Management Working Group’s Collaborative Approach to Providing IPM Resources for the Museum Community” – Paper presented at the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting April 2008
- “Integrating Preventive Conservation into a Collections Move and Rehousing Project at the National Museum of the American Indian” – *JAIC* 2005, 44:3.
- “Databases, Digital Images, Video and More: Documentation for the NMAI Collections Move Project” – Paper presented at the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting June 2005
- “An Investigation of Cyclododecane for Molding Fossil Specimens” – Poster presented at the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting, Denver, November 2004. Content available online at: http://www.vertpaleo.org/documents/Arenstein_et_al_2004.pdf
- “Conservator’s Eye for the Dirty Guy” – Video presentation given at the Objects Specialty Group, American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting, June 2004. Content available online at: <http://www.nmai.si.edu/subpage.cfm?subpage=collections&second=fabfive>
- “Collections on the Move: Technology in Support of Collections Moves” – Paper presented at the Museum Computer Network Annual Meeting, November 2003
- “What’s Inside the Building Envelope? Bugs – A Practical Approach to Managing Pest Control Data” – Paper presented at the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Annual Meeting, June 2003 http://www.museumpests.net/resources/presentations/AMNH%20SPNHC%20PMD%20Presentation-%20Final%20with%20AMNH%20and%20NMAI%20text_files/frame.htm
- “There Must Be An Easier Way To Do This: Technology and Moving Collections at NMAI” – Paper presented at the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Annual Meeting, June 2003
- Producer for National Museum of the American Indian Collection Move Video Series available online at <http://www.nmai.si.edu/subpage.cfm?subpage=collections&second=collections&third=move>
- “NMAI Living - Moving a la Martha: Practical Tips for Moving Collections” – Paper presented at the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting, June 2003. Published as “Tips from the National Museum of the American Indian Collections Move”. *AIC Objects Specialty Group Postprints*, Vol. 10, 2003.
- “NMAI Moving: Good Tips for the Application of Cyclododecane and the Construction of Easy Storage Supports” – Video presentation, Objects Specialty Group, American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting, June 2003. Content online at <http://www.nmai.si.edu/subpage.cfm?subpage=collections&second=collections&third=move>

RACHAEL PERKINS ARENSTEIN

- “Can I Touch This? Moving Potentially Contaminated Collections at the National Museum of the American Indian” – Paper presented at the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Annual Meeting, May 2002
- “What do you know about Butterflies? The Role of Objects Conservators in Mounting a Living Butterfly Exhibition” – Paper presented at the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Annual Meeting, June 2001, published in the *SPNHC Newsletter*, March 2002 (16:1); Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute website, <http://www.sasionline.org/>
- “Comparison of Temperature and Relative Humidity Dataloggers for Museum Monitoring” – *AIC Newsletter*, January 2001; *Collections Caretaker*, May 2001; *Conserve-O-Gram Series*, June 2001 <http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/conserveogram/03-03.pdf> ; *SPNHC leaflet*, Spring 2002
- “The Technology, Deterioration and Benzotriazole Treatment of Electrochemically Gilded Copper Alloy Artifacts from Peru” – UCL Conservation Thesis
- “Salivating over history: the analysis and conservation of an Egyptian coffin lid” UCL Conservation Seminar Presentation
- “Dendrochronology at Ayanis/Agarti: Research on an Urartian building of the 7th century BC a preliminary investigation into the chronological framework of Urartian history” – Archaeology Honors Thesis
- Ultrasonic Misting for consolidation of matte pigments on objects from the U.S. Southwest – AMNH Fellowship Research Project

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- American Institute for Conservation (AIC)
 - Professional Associate as of 2004
 - AIC E-editor, 2008-present
 - Health & Safety Committee Member
 - Object Specialty Group Outreach Committee Co-Chair, 2007-2009
- Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC)
 - Chair - General Technical Session, 2004 Annual Meeting
 - Publicity and Outreach Sessional Committee, 2003-07
- Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
 - Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) Assessor, 2007, 2010
 - Conservation Project Support Grant Reviewer, 2002, 2003, 2004
 - Save America’s Treasures Grant Reviewer, 2005
- Integrated Pest Management Working Group
 - Co-Chair, 2008-present
 - Web Resources Subgroup Chair, 2006-present
 - Founding member and Secretary, 2002-2008
- International Institute for Conservation (IIC)
- American Association of Museums (AAM)

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Proficiency in Hebrew and Spanish

Computer Proficient: Microsoft Office Programs, Collection databases, Digital imaging and Adobe Suite software

References available upon request