



RACHAEL PERKINS ARENSTEIN A.M. ART CONSERVATION, LLC

ART CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT
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CONSERVATION WORK EXPERIENCE

A.M. Art Conservation, LLC, New York **Principal Conservator**

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. Selected client list available online at www.AMArtConservation.com.

Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem, Israel **Conservator**

September 2013 – August 2016

Conservator in charge of all preventive care, interventive treatments, managing staff, lab and budgets for an archaeological collection.

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.

CONSERVATION INTERSHIPS

- Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities, The British Museum, London, England 1995-1997
- Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York 1996
- Center for Conservation and Restoration, Ministry of Education and Culture, Jerusalem, Israel 1995
- National Portrait Gallery, London 1995

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WORK

- Tel Gezer Excavations, Israel *Site Conservator* Summer 2014, 2015, 2016
- Tel Miqne/Ekron Excavations, Israel *Assistant Conservator* Summer 1995
- Tel Miqne/Ekron Excavations, Israel *Square Supervisor* Summer 1990, 1994
- Aegean Dendrochronology Project, Greece & Turkey *Research Assistant* Summer 1991

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York *Contractual Lecturer* 1992-2000
- Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, The MET, *Administrative Assistant* 1992-1994
- Philipsburg Manor, Historic Hudson Valley, Tarrytown, New York *Historical Interpreter* 1986-1989

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

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ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK & TRAINING

- Becoming a RE-ORG Coach, CCI 5-week online course 2022
- Textile Cleaning: Stain Reduction, AIC two-day workshop, 2022
- Rigging Basics for Conservation Professionals, AIC two-day workshop 2022
- Understanding and Mitigating Pollution in Showcases, AIC One-day workshop 2020
- Analysis of Temperature and RH Data, AIC one-day Workshop 2020
- Understanding Construction and Exhibit Design Drawings, AIC Two-day workshop 2017
- Risk Management for Museum Collections, Facilitator, ISCPCP Two-day workshop 2016
- Assessing Risks to Your Collections, AIC One-day workshop 2010
- Environmental Monitoring in Museums, AIC One-day workshop 2008
- Museum Exhibit Lighting, AIC One-day Workshop 2007
- Use of Digital Technology in Museums, SPNHC One-day workshop 2003
- Emergency Responses and Mitigation, SPNHC One-day workshop 2002
- Writing Grant Proposals, Harvard University, Semester Course 2001
- Introduction to Museum Administration, Harvard University Semester Course 2001
- Design and Function of HVAC Systems, New York City Technical College, Spring Semester 2000
- Intro to Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, New York City Technical College, Fall Semester 1999
- Identification of Plastics, AIC One-day workshop, St. Louis 1999

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, RESEARCH & WEB RESOURCES

Preventive Conservation & Collections Care

- Instructor and Course Coordinator, [Keeping Collections Safe in Storage](#). Five-week online course for Connecting to Collections Care Online
- Co-author of "Support and Rehousing for Collections Storage" In [Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage](#). Lisa Elkin and Christopher Norris, eds. AIC, 2019.
- [Demystifying Silica Gel for Effective Microclimates](#), 2019 Connecting to Collections Online Community webinar.
- Course coordinator and instructor, "Oddly Testing: Protocols and Practicalities" one-day workshop at the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting, May 2018.
- "Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition: Developing protocols for protecting Israeli museum collections from armed conflict" Co-author of a paper presented at the General Session of the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting, April 2016.
- "[Green Museums: A LEED Primer for Preservation Professionals](#)" Conservation Perspectives The GCI Newsletter, Collection Environments issue Volume 29.2, Fall 2014.
- "A LEED Primer for Conservators: Or What Should I Do When the Architect Proposes Daylight in Our Galleries?" Paper presented at the General Session of the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting April 2014.
- Instructor, "[Storage Solutions](#)". 2014 Connecting to Collections Online Community webinar
- "Resources for preventive conservation and collections care" – Co-author of paper presented at the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Annual Meeting June 2012.
- Content manager and author of two modules on the Paleontology Portal website. The sites, Collection Management available online at <http://collections.paleo.amnh.org/>, and Fossil Preparation <http://preparation.paleo.amnh.org/> provide information on best practices in the field. Created for the American Museum of Natural History.
- "[Integrating Preventive Conservation into a Collections Move and Rehousing Project at the National Museum of the American Indian](#)" – *JAIC* 2005, 44:3.

Integrated Pest Management

- "Back to the Future: Managing Pests in a Changing World" Co-author of a paper presented at the General Session of the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting, May 2022.
- Co-Instructor "Stressed About Pests: Integrated Pest Management for Heritage Preservation Professionals". Two-day workshop presented by the Foundation for the Advancement in Conservation, March 2019.
- Instructor, "[Stressed About Pests Part II: Treating Infestations](#)" 2014 Connecting to Collections Online Community webinar
- Co-Instructor, "Integrated Pest Management for Collections". One-day workshop at the 2013 American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting.
- "Crazy as a Bedbug: The Integrated Pest Management Working Group's Development of Resources & Best Practices for the Museum Community" In [Integrated Pest Management for Collections Proceedings of 2011:](#)

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A Pest Odyssey, 10 Years Later. Winsor, Pinniger, Bacon et.al. eds. 2011. London: English Heritage.

- “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.
- “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 Environmental Monitoring and Management
- Instructor, “[Wireless Environmental Monitoring: Is it right for you?](#)” 2016 Connecting to Collections Online Community webinar.
- Instructor, “Establishing & Maintaining an Environmental Monitoring Program”. One-day workshop at the 2014 American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting.
- Instructor, “[Wireless Dataloggers](#)” 2012 Connecting to Collections Online Community webinar
- Instructor, “[Choosing the Datalogger that is Right for You](#)” 2012 Connecting to Collections Online Community webinar
- “[Comparison of Temperature and Relative Humidity Dataloggers for Museum Monitoring](#)” – National Park Service *Conserve-O-Gram Series*, September, 2011 (updated) and June 2001, previously published *AIC Newsletter*, January 2001; *Collections Caretaker*, May 2001; *SPNHC leaflet*, Spring 2002.
- Instructor, “Understanding Microclimates, the Practical Implications of Assessing Materials, Design and Performance”. One-day workshop at the 2011 American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting.

Moving Collections

- “[Starr-Crossed or Serendipitous? The Unexpected Move of Columbia University’s C.V. Starr East Asian Library](#)” - Paper presented at the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting, May 2024.
- “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.
- “Collections on the Move: Technology in Support of Collections Moves” – Paper presented at the Museum Computer Network Annual Meeting, November 2003.
- “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](#)
- “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.
- “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

Conservation Treatment

- “[Private Practice, Public Impact: A Collaboration in Preserving Michael Richards’ Legacy](#)” - - Paper presented at the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting, May 2024.
- “[Preserving Penn’s Woods: The restoration of the Mammal Hall dioramas at the State Museum of Pennsylvania](#)” – Co-author of a paper presented at the General Session of the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting, May 2018.
- “[To B-72 or Not to B-72? Alternative Adhesives for Archaeological Ceramics](#)” Co-author of a paper presented at the General Session of the American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting, May 2017.
- Instructor, “Gap Filling for Ceramics”. One-day workshop for the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation, AIC Annual Meeting, Montreal 2016. And Two-day workshop for the Israeli Society for the Conservation and Preservation of Cultural Property, 2015 and 2016.
- “Cyclododecane and Fossil Vertebrates: Some Applications for Matrix Removal, Molding and Shipping”. Amy Davidson, Gregory Brown, Rachael Perkins Arenstein, Joe Groenke, and Matthew Brown. presented as a paper at the 2015 Subliming Surfaces: Volatile Binding Media in Conservation Conference, Cambridge, U.K. and as a poster at the 2015 Fossil Preparation & Collections Symposium, Association for Materials & Methods in Paleontology.
- “[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:
- “Conservator’s Eye for the Dirty Guy” – Video presentation given at the Objects Specialty Group, American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting, June 2004.
- “The Technology, Deterioration and Benzotriazole Treatment of Electrochemically Gilded Copper Alloy

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Artifacts from Peru” – UCL Conservation Thesis.

- Salivating over history: the analysis and conservation of an Egyptian coffin lid” UCL Conservation Seminar Presentation.
- Ultrasonic Misting for consolidation of matte pigments on objects from the U.S. Southwest – AMNH Fellowship Research Project

Other

- [“Establishing Online Communities to Promote Best Practices in Collection Care”](#). Invited speaker at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum Conservation Institute, Topics in Museum Conservation lecture series, March 2015.
- Instructor and organizer, “Using Wikis to Collaborate and Advance Conservation”. One-day workshop at the 2015 American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting.
- “Continuing to Care: Transitioning Connecting to Collections to Connecting to Collections Care”. With Gretchen Guidess and M. Susan Barger. Paper presented at the 2015 American Institute for Conservation 2015 Annual Meeting.
- “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
- “Dendrochronology at Ayanis/Agarti: Research on an Urartian building of the 7th century BC a preliminary investigation into the chronological framework of Urartian history” – Cornell Archaeology Honors Thesis

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & SERVICE

- American Institute for Conservation (AIC), Professional Associate as of 2004
 - Rutherford John Gettens Award 2018
 - President’s Award Recipient 2012
 - AIC E-editor, 2008-present
 - Connecting to Collections Care Online Community Advisory Group Chair 2014-2018
 - Collection Care Network, board member 2012-2021, Program Chair 2018-2021
 - Health & Safety Committee Member 2008-2012
 - Object Specialty Group Outreach Committee Co-Chair, 2007-2009
- Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC)
 - SPNHC Wiki contractor 2015-2019
 - Storage Poster Session Co-Chair, 2012 Annual Meeting
 - 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, 2012, 2017 - 2022
 - Conservation Project Support Grant Reviewer, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2011, 2017, 2019, 2021
 - Save America’s Treasures Grant Reviewer, 2005
- MuseumPests Working Group
 - Co-Chair, 2008-present
 - Web Resources Subgroup Chair, 2006-2008
 - Founding member and Secretary, 2002-2008
- International Institute for Conservation (IIC)
- Western Association for Art Conservation (WAAC)
- Israel Society for the Conservation and Preservation of Cultural Property (ISPCP)

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Proficiency in Hebrew and reading proficiency in Spanish

Computer Proficient: Microsoft Office Programs, collection databases, digital imaging and Adobe Suite software

References available upon request