

# Katherine Shark

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## EDUCATION

**Fashion Institute of Technology**  
Masters Candidate in Fashion & Textile Studies  
Textile Conservation Track  
Expected Graduation May 2025

**Maryland Institute College of Art**  
Bachelor's of Fine Arts May 2020  
Magna Cum Laude  
Dual Major → Fibers & Humanistic Studies  
Minor → Art History & Experimental Fashion

## EXPERIENCE

### Textile Conservation Intern → Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum

NEW YORK CITY, NY

JUNE 2024 – AUGUST 2024

Created a condition report & treatment proposal for a newly acquired Dorothy Liebes apron, performed material identification (fiber identification with polarized light microscopy and FTIR-ATR for synthetic identification), entered the apron into The Museum System (TMS) database, & created a storage solution. Did conservation dyeing to produce overlay and support fabric for a 19th century Japanese Noh robe, including color matching through adjusting dye recipes. Surveyed a collection of bound books with inserted textile swatches and proposed a rehousing solution for longevity, accessibility, & to reduce storage footprint. Performed Oddy testing to verify material suitability for exhibition use. Created a condition report & treatment recommendations for an Art Deco rug, prepared rug for rolled storage, including vacuuming, manual cleaning & entered it into TMS. Created two custom invisible Fosshape mounts for Lanape turkey feather capes in an upcoming exhibition.

### Textile Conservation Intern → The Museum at Fashion Institute of Technology

NEW YORK CITY, NY

JUNE 2024 – SEPTEMBER 2024

Created a muslin reconstruction of a 1943 Molyneux women's suit for an upcoming exhibition (spring 2025). Drafted a pattern from the original garment, under the supervision of the head conservator, and created a muslin toile as an interactive component of the exhibition. The toile will become a part of the Fashion Institute of Technology's Graduate Study toile collection after the exhibition closes.

### Research Intern → Underpinnings Museum

ONLINE

JANUARY 2024 – PRESENT

Researching a variety of objects, including extant garments, advertisements, catalogues, magazines, & other lingerie related materials from the Underpinnings Museum archives. Creating written catalog entries for each item to add to the museums' online collections, complete with relevant comparanda, references, & bibliographies.

### Federal Work Study Placement → Fashion Institute of Technology Gladys Marcus Library, Special Collections and College Archives (SPARC)

NEW YORK CITY, NY

AUGUST 2023 – PRESENT

Rehomed a manuscript collection consisting of over 1,500 folders. Organized & rehoused materials into archival quality storage & created appropriate labeling, as well as a Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACS) compliant finding aid. Created an initial survey and Deed of Gift for a newly donated collection of fashion illustrations, rehomed and organized the collection, and created a DACS compliant finding aid. Reshelfed & organized materials in the Special Collections, pulled researcher requested materials & assisted in research appointments.

### Visitor Services Associate → Bard Graduate Center Gallery

NEW YORK CITY, NY

AUGUST 2023 – PRESENT

Promoting & discussing current exhibitions with guests, with a thorough knowledge of relevant artistic context of exhibitions. Creating a welcoming environment for guests as they enter the Bard Graduate Center Gallery. Maintains inventory & an organized storefront for the gallery bookstore & facilitated the sale of tickets. Managed front desk at the gallery as well as assisting during events and lectures through the Graduate Center.

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## EXPERIENCE

### Library Specialist → Palo Alto City Library

PALO ALTO, CA

JANUARY 2023 – AUGUST 2023 - LIBRARY SPECIALIST

MAY 2022 – JANUARY 2023 - LIBRARY CLERK

Provided circulation & reference services to a diverse range of patrons, across print, media, and digital resources, including access to library archives. Assisted in creating research guides for the library at a local community college. Ensured patrons followed the code of conduct & maintained a professional customer service response at all times. Assisted in fine & fee collections, deaccessioning, and open & closing procedures, with a strong grasp of the necessary software and databases. Performed community outreach to promote library use. Planned & executed public programs for a variety of ages, creating a series of sewing programs that became highly requested, with full registration & waitlists for each event. Directed a team for programs, coordinating set up, take down, promotion & social media.

### Sewing Instructor → Needles Studio

LOS ALTOS, CA

JUNE 2021 – FEBRUARY 2023

Developed lesson plans & long-term curriculum for each student. Curriculum ranged from rudimentary machine use & simple projects such as tote bags or pajama pants, to using commercial garment patterns, basic knowledge of fabric weaves & fibers, seam finishes, fitting adjustments, handsewing and couture techniques, and flat pattern development & manipulation. Managed storefront, inventory, & provided guidance for customers around sewing techniques & supplies. Supervised weekly open studio hours for independent sewists.

### Exhibitions Intern → Palo Alto Art Center

PALO ALTO, CA

MAY 2020 – AUGUST 2020

Researched potential exhibiting artists for the Summer 2021 New Americans and Textile exhibitions, creating curatorial proposals for prospective artists. Researched exhibition formats & methods to transition into digitally accessible programs & exhibitions during COVID-19 through to Summer 2021. Coordinated outreach to local nonprofits, in conjunction with the social media team to promote upcoming exhibitions & events. Compiled a comprehensive reference guide of resources for promotion, collaboration, and digital program development

### Virginia West Special Collections Intern → Decker Library Special Collections

BALTIMORE, MD

MAY 2019 – AUGUST 2019

Independently managed condition assessments, rehousing, & cataloging the materials within the Virginia West Special Collection of weavings, patterns, and printed ephemera. Created a reference guide for future students. Discovered & identified a pre-Colombian Peruvian weaving fragment in the collection, & communicated with conservators at the George Washington University Museum to corroborate its provenance. Curated an exhibition centering the fragment, showcasing the personal collection of Professor Julie Geschwind's historic textiles alongside materials from the Virginia West collection.

## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

### American Institute of Conservation →

Emerging Conservation Professionals Network Graduate Program  
Liasion

### Author →

Rituals of Dressing, Fashion Studies Journal - 2023 Fashion &  
Politics Issue

Interview with 19/99 Beauty

### Designer, Coterie →

### 2020 Multimedia Event

AUGUST 2019 – APRIL 2020

Designed, patterned, & produced a line of garments for the MICA  
Multimedia Event. Coordinated casting of over 80 models for 12  
different designers. Created a short film documenting the work.

## CONSERVATION SKILLS

Preparation of condition reports, treatment proposals, & post treat-  
ment reports, in narrative and LACMA formats \* The Museum Sys-  
tem software \* Fiber identification using polarized light microscopy  
\* FTIR-AR \* Object photography \* Conservation stitching \* Conserva-  
tion wet cleaning \* Conservation vacuuming and manual cleaning \*  
Custom storage and mount construction \* Garment Recreation

## FIBER, STUDIO & SOFTWARE SKILLS

Weaving on multi-shaft floor Looms \* Table loom weaving \* Seam-  
stress \* Pattern making & grading \* Draping \* Digital pattern design  
for Mimaki TX2-1600 digital printer \* Gerber Accumark Digital Pat-  
tern software \* Serger & sewing Machine use & repair, including  
industrial and home machines \* Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, & Photo-  
shop \* Microsoft Office suite