

Katherine Shark

E: KATHERINE.SARAH.SHARK@GMAIL.COM

W: KATHERINESHARK.COM

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

Graduate Student Conservation Advisor → Museum at Fashion Institute of Technology (MFIT)

NEW YORK CITY, NY

SEPTEMBER 2024 – PRESENT

Working with MFIT conservation team to identify potential conservation issues with objects for the exhibition *All that Glitters...* (spring 2025). Coordinating with teammates to ensure layout and installation adhere to conservation guidelines. Assisting conservators to create condition reports and treatment proposals to prepare the garments for mounting. Coordinating the conservation section of *All that Glitters...*, including information on the conservation of synthetic materials and touch samples.

Federal Work Study Placement → Museum at Fashion Institute of Technology (MFIT)

NEW YORK CITY, NY

SEPTEMBER 2024 – PRESENT

Assisting in curatorial research for upcoming exhibitions, including sourcing images and gathering the requisite bibliographic information to obtain the rights for publishing. Assessing results from public and educational programming, quantifying responses from guest surveys to produce reports. Helping facilitate events day-of, including checking in attendees and setting up and taking down venues.

Textile Conservation Intern → Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum

NEW YORK CITY, NY

JUNE 2024 – AUGUST 2024

Created 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 storage solution. Conservation dyeing to produce overlay and support fabric for a 19th c. 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 Lenape 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 the exhibition, *Fashioning Wonder: A Cabinet of Curiosities* (spring 2025). Drafted a pattern from the original garment 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 – OCTOBER 2024

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

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EXPERIENCE

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. Creating a welcoming environment for guests as they enter the Bard Graduate Center Gallery. Maintaining inventory & an organized storefront for the gallery bookstore & facilitating the sale of tickets. Managing front desk at the gallery as well as assisting during events and lectures.

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. Ensured patrons followed the code of conduct & maintained a professional customer service response at all times. Assisted in fine & fee collections, deaccessioning, 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 and created a series of sewing programs that became highly requested, with 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. 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 for future interns.

Virginia West Special Collections Intern → Decker Library Special Collections

BALTIMORE, MD

MAY 2019 – AUGUST 2019

Independently managed condition assessments, rehoming, & 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.

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CONSERVATION SKILLS

- * Preparation of condition reports, treatment proposals, & post treatment reports, in narrative and LACMA formats
- * The Museum System software
- * Fiber identification using polarized light microscopy
- * FTIR-ATR
- * Object photography
- * Conservation stitching
- * Conservation wet cleaning
- * Conservation vacuuming and manual cleaning
- * Custom storage and mount construction
- * Garment recreation
- * Costume mounting

FIBER, STUDIO & SOFTWARE SKILLS

- * Garment construction
- * Flat patterning & pattern grading
- * Draping
- * Weaving on multi-shaft floor Looms
- * Table loom weaving
- * Digital pattern design for Mimaki TX2-1600 digital printer
- * Gerber Accumark Digital Patterning software
- * Serger & sewing machine use & repair, including industrial and home machines
- * Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, & Photoshop
- * Microsoft Office suite

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

American Institute of Conservation →

Emerging Conservation Professionals Network Graduate Program Liaison

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

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.

Recipient, CA Nearly New Scholarship Fund →

2024

Recipient, CA Elizabeth P. Armstrong Scholarship Fund →

2023