

Katherine Shark

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EDUCATION

Fashion Institute of Technology

Masters of Art, Fashion & Textile Studies

May 2026

Thesis - *Late Bloomer: Gel Cleaning of a 1971 Courrèges Ensemble*

Maryland Institute College of Art

Bachelor's of Fine Arts, Fibers and Humanistic Studies

May 2020

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Textile Conservation Intern

The Museum of Fine Arts Boston

BOSTON, MA

SEPTEMBER 2026 – PRESENT

Treating objects for upcoming exhibitions and rotations, including compensation for loss, stitch treatments, repleating, cleaning, and other necessary conservation work. Installation, maintenance, and de-installation of exhibitions. Conditioning incoming and outgoing loans and accessions.

Polaire Weissman Textile Conservation Fellow

The Costume Institute at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

NEW YORK CITY, NY

SEPTEMBER 2025 – AUGUST 2026

Treated objects in preparation for upcoming exhibitions, including compensation for loss, stitch treatments, repleating, cleaning, anoxia chambers, and other necessary conservation work. Installation, maintenance, and de-installation of exhibitions. Conditioned incoming and outgoing loans and accessions. Created new departmental spectrophotometry protocol to track object fading in gallery conditions. Surveyed a collection of over 250 tortoiseshell and faux tortoiseshell objects to identify unstable early plastics.

RELATED EXHIBITIONS:

Superfine (Spring 2025)

Costume Art (Spring 2026)

Graduate Student Conservation Advisor

The Museum at Fashion Institute of Technology

NEW YORK CITY, NY

SEPTEMBER 2024 – APRIL 2025

Worked with MFIT conservation team to identify and prepare objects for the exhibition *All that Glitters...* (spring 2025). Coordinated with teammates to ensure installation adheres to conservation best practices. Created condition reports and treatment proposals to prepare the garments for mounting, performed necessary treatments, & assisted with photography. Coordinated the conservation section of *All that Glitters...*, including information on the conservation of synthetic materials & touch samples.

RELATED EXHIBITIONS:

All That Glitters... (Spring 2025)

EXPERIENCE

Federal Work Study Placement

The Museum at Fashion Institute of Technology

NEW YORK CITY, NY

SEPTEMBER 2024 – MAY 2025

Assisted in curatorial research for upcoming exhibitions, including sourcing images and gathering the requisite bibliographic and rights information for publishing. Assessed results from public and educational programming and quantified responses from guest surveys. Facilitated events day-of, including checking in attendees and setting up and taking down venues. Created presentations for lectures and accessible gallery information booklets for patrons. Managed office inventory, logged messages and calls, and developed efficient systems to streamline events preparation.

RELATED EXHIBITIONS:

Fashion and Psychoanalysis (Fall 2025)

Textile Conservation Intern

The Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum

NEW YORK CITY, NY

JUNE 2024 – AUGUST 2024

Conditioned a newly acquired Dorothy Liebes apron, performed material identification (fiber identification with polarized light microscopy and FTIR-ATR for synthetic identification) and created a treatment proposal and storage solution. Conservation dyeing to produce color matched overlay and support fabric for a 19th century Japanese Noh robe. Surveyed a collection of bound books with inserted textile swatches and proposed a rehousing solution for longevity, accessibility, and to reduce storage footprint. Performed Oddy testing to verify the suitability of installation material for exhibition. Prepared Art Deco rug for rolled storage, including vacuuming and manual cleaning. Created two custom invisible Fosshape mounts for Lanape turkey feather capes in an upcoming exhibition.

RELATED EXHIBITIONS:

Making Home (Winter 2024)

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 became part of the Fashion Institute of Technology's Graduate Study toile collection after the exhibition closed.

RELATED EXHIBITIONS:

Fashioning Wonder: A Cabinet of Curiosities (Winter 2025)

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EXPERIENCE

Research Intern

Underpinnings Museum

JANUARY 2024 – SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Federal Work Study Placement

Fashion Institute of Technology Gladys Marcus Library, Special Collections and College Archives

NEW YORK CITY, NY

AUGUST 2023 – MAY 2024

Organized and rehoused a manuscript collection consisting of over 1,500 folders into archival quality storage and created appropriate labeling and 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. Reshelved and 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 – NOVEMBER 2024

Promoted and discussed exhibitions with guests, with a thorough knowledge of relevant artistic context. Created a welcoming environment, maintained inventory and an organized storefront for the gallery bookstore, and facilitated the sale of tickets. Managed secretarial front desk duties and assisted during events, symposia, 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 and 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 and maintained a professional customer service response at all times. Performed community outreach to promote library use. Planned and executed public programs for a variety of ages, creating a series of sewing programs that became highly requested, with full registration and waitlists for each event. Directed a team for programs, coordinating set up, take down, and social media promotion.

EXPERIENCE

Sewing Instructor

Needles Studio

LOS ALTOS, CA

JUNE 2021 – FEBRUARY 2023

Developed lesson plans and long-term curriculum, ranging from basic machine use and beginner projects such as tote bags or pajama pants, to using commercial garment patterns, knowledge of fabric weaves and fibers, seam finishes, fitting adjustments, handsewing and couture techniques, and flat pattern development and manipulation. Managed storefront, inventory, and provided guidance for customers around sewing techniques and 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 methods to transition into digitally accessible programs and exhibitions during COVID-19 through to Summer 2021. Coordinated outreach to local nonprofits in conjunction with the social media team to promote upcoming exhibitions and events. Compiled a comprehensive reference guide for promotion and digital program development for future interns.

Designer, Coterie

Maryland Institute College of Art Multimedia Event

BALTIMORE, MD

AUGUST 2019 – MAY 2020

Designed, patterned, and produced a line of 8 garments for the MICA Multimedia Event. Transitioned work from a live performance to a short film due to COVID-19, and worked as stylist, creative director, and makeup artist for the film. Organized casting calls and procured over 60 models for 15 total lines. Organized schedules and trained volunteers for multiple rehearsals.

Virginia West Special Collections Intern

Decker Library Special Collections

BALTIMORE, MD

MAY 2019 – AUGUST 2019

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

RELATED EXHIBITIONS:

Legacy of Virginia West (Fall 2019)

Textile Specialty Group Wiki Co-Coordinator

American Institute for Conservation

MAY 2025 – PRESENT

Speaking →

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, July 2026

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Fellows Panel

The Costume Society of America Conference, June 2026

Comparative Study of Physical and Digital Recreation Processes of Museum Garments

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, May 2026

Fellows Looking Group, *Re-Pleating a Fortuny*

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, May 2026

Interactive gallery activation, *Tortoiseshell: Faux or Genuine?*

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, May 2026

Met Speaks Research out Loud, *Tortoiseshell in The Costume Institute*

American Institute for Conservation Conference, April 2026

Late Bloomer: Gel Cleaning of a 1971 Courrèges Ensemble

Association of North American Graduate Programs in Conservation, April 2026

Late Bloomer: Gel Cleaning of a 1971 Courrèges Ensemble

Emerging Conservation Professionals New York City Forum, March 2026

Tortoiseshell in Fashion Accessories: Methods of Identification

The Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Departmental Meeting, November 2025

Tortoiseshell in the Costume Institute Collection

FIT Fashion & Textile Studies Graduate School Symposium, Imagined Worlds: Costume Design for Fantasy Film, May 2025

Danse Macabre: Costume Design and World Building in Suspiria

The Museum at FIT, April 2025

Exhibition tour, *All That Glitters ...* (Spring 2025)

The Museum at FIT Fashion Culture Series, March 2025

Panel conversation with Alison Castaneda, Callie O'Connor, and Whitney Crutchfield

All That Glitters ... Conservation and Sustainability of Fashion Collections

Workshops and Lectures →

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, August 2026

Introduction to Conservation Dyeing

Taught high school and undergraduate interns the fundamentals of dye chemistry and led two rounds of conservation dyeing with the interns to color match an object for an underlay.

Conservation Stitch Techniques

Taught high school and undergraduate interns the fundamentals of conservation stitching and led a stitch sampler workshop.

Publications →

The Costume Institute at The Metropolitan Museum of Art Conservation Research Article, September 2026

Conserving the "Delphos" Gown

Textile Specialty Group Postprints, American Institute for Conservation 2026 Conference

Late Bloomer: Gel Cleaning of a 1971 Courrèges Ensemble

All that Glitters... exhibition catalog, May 2025

Keeping Fashion Glittering: the Role of Conservators

Fashion Studies Journal - Fashion & Politics Special Issue, August 2023

Rituals of Dressing

19/99 Beauty, August 2020

Interview

Upcoming Presentations and Publications→

The UK Plastics Historical Society, September 2026

Natural and Synthetic Plastics: Tortoiseshell in Fashion Accessories

The Unseen Art: Fashion Conservation and Display, spring 2027

Co-author chapter titled "Polyurethane Synthetic Leather" with Alison Castaneda

Uppsala University, Sweden, December 2026

Guest Lecturer, *Materials and Techniques of Objects in Fashion Collections: Tortoiseshell and Early Plastics*

Scholarships →

2024: Nearly New Scholarship Fund, P.E.O. Foundation

2023: CA Elizabeth P. Armstrong Scholarship Fund, P.E.O. Foundation

CONSERVATION SKILLS

- * Preparation of condition reports, treatment proposals, & post treatment reports, in narrative and LACMA formats
- * The Museum System (TMS) and Conservation Studio software
- * Integrated Pest Management (IPM) skills through anoxia chambers, freezing, vacuuming, monitoring, and knowledge of pest evidence
- * Fiber identification using polarized light microscopy (PLM)
- * Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR-AR)
- * Object photography
- * Conservation stitching, wet cleaning, vacuuming and manual cleaning
- * Conservation dyeing to color match underlay and overlay fabrics, using Lanaset dyes
- * Exhibition installation, maintenance, and de-installation
- * Conservation painting to create visually coherent infills
- * Custom storage and mount construction, including mounting historic costume and creating invisible mounts
- * Garment recreation (physical and digital, using CLO3D software)

FIBER, STUDIO & SOFTWARE SKILLS

- * Garment construction
- * Flat pattern making & size grading, draping
- * Gerber Accumark Digital Patterning software and CLO3D software
- * Overlock & straight stitch sewing machine use & maintenance, including industrial and home machines
- * Weaving on multi-shaft floor looms
- * Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, & Photoshop
- * Microsoft Office suite
- * Google Workspace, including Sheets, Slides, and Docs

REFERENCES

Professional:

Christopher Mazza, Associate Conservator
The Costume Institute at The Metropolitan Museum of Art
christopher.mazza@metmuseum.org

Kira Eng-Wilmot, Conservator
The Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum
EngWilmotS@si.edu

Academic:

Nicole Bloomfield, Professor
The Fashion Institute of Technology
nicole_bloomfield@fitnyc.edu