

Katherine Shark

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EDUCATION

Fashion Institute of Technology

Masters Candidate in Fashion and 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 and Humanistic Studies
Minor → Art History and Experimental Fashion

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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 and rights information for publishing. Assessing results from public and educational programming and quantifying responses from guest surveys. Helping facilitate events day-of, including checking in attendees and setting up and taking down venues. Creating presentations for lectures and creating accessible gallery information booklets for patrons. Managing office inventory, logging messages and calls, and developing efficient systems to streamline events preparation.

Visitor Services Associate → Bard Graduate Center Gallery

NEW YORK CITY, NY

AUGUST 2023 – OCTOBER 2024

Created an accessible, friendly environment where guests can connect and engage with the gallery exhibitions. Discussed current exhibitions with guests with a thorough knowledge of relevant artistic context. Maintained inventory and an organized storefront for the gallery retail space. Facilitated the sale of tickets, memberships, and exhibition catalogues. Managed gallery communications with guests, curators, lenders, and other affiliated parties. Facilitated set up, check in, and take down during events, tours, and lectures.

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

NEW YORK CITY, NY

AUGUST 2023 – MAY 2024

Prepared outgoing loans and rehoused return items. Organized and rehomed a manuscript collection consisting of over 1,500 folders into archival quality storage and created appropriate labeling. Created a Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACS) compliant finding aid for the collection. Created an initial survey and Deed of Gift for a newly donated collection of fashion illustrations, organized and stored the collection, and created a DACS compliant finding aid for it. Reshelved and organized materials, pulled researcher requested materials and assisted in research appointments.

Library Specialist → City of Palo Alto 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 environment at all times. Assisted in fine and fee collections, deaccessioning, using Sierra databases. Performed community outreach to promote library use. Planned and led public programs for a variety of ages, including 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 and social media.

Sewing Instructor → Needles Studio

LOS ALTOS, CA

JUNE 2021 – FEBRUARY 2023

Developed lesson plans and long-term curriculum for each student. Curriculum ranged from rudimentary machine use and simple projects such as tote bags or pajama pants, to using commercial garment patterns, basic 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.

INTERNSHIP AND VOLUNTEER WORK

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), and to condition, treat, mount, and photograph the objects. 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.

Textile Conservation Intern → Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum

NEW YORK CITY, NY

JUNE 2024 – AUGUST 2024

Created condition report and treatment proposal for a newly acquired Dorothy Liebes apron, performed material identification using polarized light microscopy and FTIR-ATR, entered the apron into The Museum System (TMS) database, and created a 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, and to reduce storage footprint. Performed Oddy testing to verify material suitability for exhibition use. Created a condition report and treatment recommendations for an Art Deco rug, prepared rug for rolled storage, including vacuuming and manual cleaning. Created two custom invisible Fosshape mounts for Lenape turkey feather capes.

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, and brand histories from the Underpinnings Museum archives. Created written catalog entries for each item to add to the museums' online collections, complete with relevant comparanda, references, and bibliographies.

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 and methods to transition into digitally accessible programs and exhibitions during COVID-19. Coordinated outreach to local nonprofits in conjunction with the social media team to promote upcoming exhibitions and 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, and cataloging the Virginia West Special Collection of weavings, patterns, and printed ephemera. Discovered and identified a pre-Colombian Peruvian weaving fragment in the collection, and 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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ARCHIVAL AND CONSERVATION SKILLS

- * Preparation of condition reports, treatment proposals, and post treatment reports, in narrative and LACMA formats
- * The Museum System (TMS) software
- * Fiber identification using polarized light microscopy (PLM)
- * Material identification using Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR-ATR)
- * Object photography
- * Conservation stitching, underlay, overlay, and encapsulation
- * Conservation wet cleaning
- * Conservation vacuuming and manual cleaning
- * Conservation Dyeing
- * Custom storage and mount construction
- * Garment recreation, pattern making and toile creation
- * Costume mounting
- * Integrated pest management

FIBER, STUDIO AND SOFTWARE SKILLS

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

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

American Institute of Conservation →

Emerging Conservation Professionals Network Graduate Program Liaison

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Author →

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

Interview with 19/99 Beauty

Designer, Coterie →

2020 Multimedia Event

AUGUST 2019 – APRIL 2020

Designed, patterned, and 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