

# ANISHA GUPTA

## EDUCATION

---

**University of Delaware** August 2021 – Present  
**Doctor of Philosophy, Preservation Studies**  
Unidel Distinguished Graduate Scholar

**Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation** August 2016  
**Master of Science in Art Conservation**  
Major Concentration in Works on Paper  
Minor Concentration in Photographic Materials

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**  
**Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Art History** May 2012  
Graduated with High Distinction  
Senior Honors Thesis: *An Amalgam of Self and Country: Amrita Sher-Gil, Indian Independence, and the Third Space*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

---

**Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation** August 2020 – July 2021

- Contractor in charge of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA)
- Chair of DEIA faculty committee. Created and distributed climate survey to better understand overall comfort of faculty, students, and staff within the department
- Chair of admissions requirements review committee, leading faculty members through a process of examining current admissions requirements through DEIA lens and overhauling the admissions process to look at candidates more holistically
- Organized and facilitated sessions with faculty aimed at expanding their DEIA knowledge as it relates to their teaching
- Led seminars for graduate students on workplace activism and salary negotiation

**American Philosophical Society Library & Museum** October 2018 – April 2021  
Assistant Conservator for Archival Materials

- Performed conservation treatment on a variety of paper-based materials including manuscripts on paper, maps, ephemera, photographic materials, graphic works on paper, and manuscripts on parchment.
- Conservator in charge of preventive conservation activities including disaster preparedness and recovery, light management, and digitization workflows.
- Participated in a wide range of other preventive conservation activities including environmental monitoring, pest management, examination and preparation of materials for loan, and minor mold remediation.
- Lead conservator for preparing materials for exhibition and coordinating with museum staff.
- Conducted care and handling training for all new staff and research fellows.

**Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco**

September 2016 – August 2018

Andrew W. Mellon Fellow

- Performed extensive treatment on a variety of prints, drawings, and photograph
- Managed exhibition installation and deinstallation.
- Participated in preventive conservation activities, including the shift from analog hygrographs to a digital environmental monitoring system, including light monitoring.
- Other responsibilities included management of the budget for the Mellon Fellowship activities and training museum staff on the handling of artwork.

**Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco**

September 2015 – August 2016

Graduate Intern

- Conducted treatment projects on works on paper and photographic materials, primarily for exhibition, including a portfolio of twenty-four lithographs, a 16<sup>th</sup>-century woodcut, an albumen silver print, and ten wallpaper panels.
- Preventive projects included researching light and UV data loggers for implementation in the galleries and organizing emergency response bins.
- Collaboration with curators and conservators, as well as outreach and involvement in public programs were also main components of this internship.

**Tate**

June 2015

Graduate Intern

- Conducted treatment on a 20<sup>th</sup>-century drawing and multiple rehousing projects.
- Prepared an artist interview through Tate's well-established interview program of artist Cecilia Vicuña.
- This position provided an introduction to policies and processes of a major UK institution, such as the responsibilities of acquisitions and outgoing loans conservators.

**Cleveland Museum of Art**

June – August 2014

Graduate Intern

- Examination, written and photographic documentation for treatment of a variety of works on paper including 16<sup>th</sup>-century South Asian manuscript pages and 17<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Western prints.
- Brainstormed and tested safe methods to install 20<sup>th</sup>-century newsprints, photographs, and film negatives. Subsequently assisted with the installation of the exhibition.

**TEACHING & MENTORING**

---

**Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation**

Preventive Conservation Research &amp; Applications

Primary Instructor

Spring 2023

- Taught a semester-long course which allows students to carry out independent preventive projects based on their research interests.
- Prepared lectures, facilitated discussions, organized hands-on activities and tours, and assigned readings.

Preventive Conservation Research &amp; Applications

Guest Lecturer

Spring 2022

- Taught three seminars on innovative approaches to collections storage for master's students enrolled in *Preventive Conservation Research and Applications*. Topics included traditional storage planning, resource-efficient solutions, and anti-colonial storage practices.
- Prepared lectures, facilitated discussions, organized hands-on activities and tours, and assigned readings.

Independent Study Instructor 2021 – 2022

- Advised second-year preventive conservation minor on applying systems thinking and social justice frameworks to inclusive preventive conservation practice. Included facilitated discussions of readings and evaluation of final projects.

Independent Study Instructor Spring 2019

- Worked with a second-year library and archives graduate student on an assessment of APS's disaster response plan, creating a bibliography of resources, and identifying critical updates.

Guest Lecturer (Ongoing) 2019 – Present

- Conduct annual seminar to second-year master's students on the history of pay inequity in museum fields and strategies for salary negotiation with relevant resources.
- Facilitate annual seminar on teamwork and conflict resolution for first-year master's students

Lead APS instructor for Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) Survey Spring 2019

- Led first-year WUDPAC graduate students and UPenn Historic Preservation students through a CAP survey of two APS buildings, including a historic building.
- Determined goals and priorities for the report and coordinated with various APS departments for their input and participation.

**University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign** 2011 –2013

Teaching Assistant, Department of Chemistry

- Served as a solo instructor of General Chemistry I and II discussion sections averaging 20 students. Held weekly office hours.
- Developed lectures, worksheets, quizzes, and mock exams covering general to introductory organic chemistry.
- Awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award for the Department of Chemistry in 2013.

**HBCU Museum & Gallery Alliance-ECPN Mentorship Program** 2017 – 2019

Mentor

- Recruited to serve as a conservation mentor for HBCU students interested in a museum career
- Scheduled regular phone calls and video chats, edited application materials and portfolio, provided advice on various career paths, and connected mentee with other professionals in the field for greater perspective.

## SERVICE

---

## ***Committees***

### **AIC Equity & Inclusion Committee Co-Chair**

May 2019 – May 2022

- Set the equity and inclusion priorities for the field of conservation, including graduate education barriers, gender inequity, and unconscious bias.
- Fundraised for a variety of programming, including AIC annual meeting talks and sessions, webinar speaker fees, and facilitator costs.
- Planned sessions and talks annually for AIC meetings, including recruiting speakers, reviewing abstracts, organizing the program, and moderating the sessions.
- Organized in-person strategic planning meeting in December, including interviewing trained equity and inclusion facilitators, determining initiatives to include in planning, raising funds for travel and fees, and coordinating travel.
- Wrote position statements in response to current events on behalf of the AIC Board.
- Created an agenda for monthly committee phone meetings, ran the meetings, and delegated projects to committee members.

### **Philadelphia Area Conservation Association Co-Chair**

May 2019 – June 2021

- Oversaw and coordinated PACA activities, ensuring that efforts are aligned with the strategic direction of the association.
- Advised on budgetary decisions and assist with budget preparation, working regularly with the Treasurer and Program Coordinator.
- Prepared meeting agendas, run the meeting, and take minutes.

### **AIC Equity & Inclusion Committee Member**

May 2018 – May 2019

- Assisted with planning sessions and talks annually for AIC meetings, including recruiting speakers, reviewing abstracts, organizing the program, and moderating the sessions.
- Assisted with writing position statements in response to current events on behalf of the AIC Board.
- Connected with allied professionals working on diversity and equity issues to determine successful initiatives that can be adopted by the conservation field.

### **AIC Equity & Inclusion Working Group**

December 2016 – December 2017

- Engaged the AIC membership in active conversation and constructive dialogue on the state of social, cultural, and racial literacy as it relates to the preservation of cultural heritage.
- Assessed similar initiatives in allied fields and created an actionable plan to present to the membership over the course of one year.

### **ECPN Bay Area Regional Liaison**

August 2016 – August 2017

- Organized events for emerging conservators in the Bay Area to create a sense of community, such as exhibition visits, conservation lectures, and social gatherings.
- Mentored pre-conservation students through graduate application editing, connecting with internships and jobs, and provided career advice.

### **FAIC Connecting to Collections Forum Monitor**

January 2016 – Present

- Monitor discussion boards on the Connecting to Collections site, where collections care professionals without access to conservation can post questions. This involves answering questions or soliciting answers from experts in the field.

#### **Western Neighborhoods Project Board Member**

November 2016 – August 2018

- Preserved and shared the history and culture of the neighborhoods in western San Francisco by hosting history-based panel discussions on topics such as transit in San Francisco and operating a public clinic to advise the public on how to preserve their family heirlooms.
- Cultivated corporate, public, and private donors and raised funds for specific projects, such cold storage for WNP's collection of over 100,000 photographs.
- Advised on the budgetary decisions of the non-profit organization.
- Co-organized the free San Francisco History Days weekend at the Old Mint, which draws 6,000 – 7,000 people each year.

#### **ECPN Webinar Coordinator**

June 2013 – June 2014

- Worked with the ECPN and AIC staff to coordinate and moderate two to three webinars per year.

#### **ECPN Co-Outreach Coordinator**

September 2011 – June 2013

- Raised awareness of ECPN and addressed questions and interests of emerging conservators through social media communication.
- Encouraged involvement of emerging conservators by creating a regional liaison and specialty group liaison program.
- Created a dialogue about the profession through relevant blog posts and outreach projects.

### ***Conference Sessions, Workshops, and Talks Organized***

“Advancing Equity & Inclusion in Conservation” workshop. 2020-2021. Co-organizer with Dr. Joelle Wickens.

“Global Relevance/Local Action: Conservation at Work in Communities” session at AIC’s 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Uncasville, CT, 2019. Chaired by the Equity & Inclusion Committee.

“Whose Cultural Heritage? Whose Conservation Strategy?” session at AIC’s 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, 2018. Chaired by the Equity & Inclusion Working Group.

Association of North American Graduate Program in Conservation (ANAGPIC) Conference hosted by Winterthur/University of Delaware and University of Pennsylvania, Winterthur, DE, 2015. Co-organizer of the conference.

[Beyond the Prerequisites: Preparing for Graduate Education in Art Conservation](#) webinar for ECPN, 2014. Moderator and organizer of the webinar.

[Get Involved! Conservation Education, Outreach, and Advocacy](#) webinar for ECPN, 2014.  
Moderator and organizer of the webinar.

[How to Make the Most of Your Pre-Program Internship](#) webinar for ECPN, 2013. Moderator and organizer of the webinar.

[Considering Your Future Career Path: Working in Private Practice](#) webinar for ECPN, 2012.  
Moderator and organizer of the webinar.

### ***Other***

Peer reviewer for IIC's *Studies in Conservation* journal

April 2020 – Present

### **PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

---

Wickens, Joelle D. J. & Anisha Gupta. 2022. "Leadership: the Act of Making Way for Others." *Studies in Conservation*. doi: [10.1080/00393630.2022.2065956](https://doi.org/10.1080/00393630.2022.2065956)

Gupta, Anisha. 2017. "Striking a Harmonious Tone: Wet Treatment of a Modern Print Edition." *Book and Paper Group Annual*. 36: 123-125.

Gupta, Anisha. 2016. "Comparison of Commercial Light and UV Data Loggers." Poster presentation at Joint 44th Annual AIC Meeting and CAC-ACCR's 42nd Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada.

Brown, Heather, Ayesha Fuentes, Anisha Gupta, Amy Hughes, Laura Neufeld, Fran Ritchie, Megan Salazar-Walsh, Anne Schaffer, and Michelle Sullivan. 2014. "Building a Community of Emerging Conservation Professionals." Poster presentation at the 17<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of the International Council of Museums – Committee for Conservation; Melbourne, Australia.

Spaulding, Eliza, Megan Salazar-Walsh, Michelle Sullivan, Ayesha Fuentes, Anisha Gupta, Saira Haqqi, Carrie McNeal, Kendall Trotter, and Fran Ritchie with Heather Brown and Sara Levin. 2014. "The Digital Portfolio in the Conservation Field." Poster presentation at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual AIC Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Curmi, Angela, Molly Gleeson, Anisha Gupta, Gwen Manthey, Caroline Roberts, Megan Salazar-Walsh, and Eliza Spaulding. 2013. "The Art\_Con<server>: How Conservation Professionals Make Use of Online Resources." Poster presentation at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual AIC Meeting, Indianapolis, IN.

Brost, Amy, Molly Gleeson, Anisha Gupta, Amber Kerr-Allison, Caroline Roberts, Megan Salazar Walsh, and Eliza Spaulding. 2012. "Creative Endeavors and Expressive Ideas: Emerging Conservators Engaging through Outreach and Public Scholarship." Poster presentation at 40<sup>th</sup> AIC Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

Gupta, Anisha. 2021. "Are You Biased? I Am." At 49<sup>th</sup> Annual AIC Meeting, virtual.

Gupta, Anisha. 2021. "To Counterfeit is Death: Benjamin Franklin's Anti-counterfeiting Papermaking Techniques for Colonial Currency." At International Paper Historians conference, virtual.

Evans, Debra and Anisha Gupta. 2017. "Old School Meets New School: Fundamentals of a Successful Training Partnership." At IADA International Symposium, Oslo, Norway.

Johnson, Jacinta, Kari Rayner, Anisha Gupta, Joelle Wickens, and Jessica Walthew. 2016. "When Emergency Preparedness (or Even an Emergency) is Foreign Territory." At Joint 44th Annual AIC Meeting and CAC-ACCR's 42nd Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada.

Gupta, Anisha. 2015. "A Tale of Two Sisters: The Material Analysis of a Pair of Pennsylvania German Fraktur." At Winterthur/University of Delaware.

Gottschlich, Lauren, Anisha Gupta, Jacinta Johnson, and Alexandra Nichols. 2015. "Tattered Tapa: Multi-disciplinary Collaboration in the Study and Treatment of a 19th-Century Fijian Bark Cloth." At the Association of North American Graduate Programs in Conservation (ANAGPIC) annual conference, Winterthur, DE.

### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS (not peer-reviewed)**

---

Gupta, Anisha and Victoria Binder. 2017. "Psychedelic Solutions: Unconventional Exhibition Displays for Rock Posters and 2D Materials from The Summer of Love." *Western Association for Art Conservation Newsletter*.

### **SELECTED INVITED TALKS**

---

Gupta, Anisha and Natalya Swanson. "Rarely Either/Or: Advocacy from Internal and External Sources." CCAHA symposium, virtual. February 7, 2022.

Gupta, Anisha. "How Can Conservation Reflect Communities?" Lecture. University of Minnesota, virtual. November 22, 2021.

Gupta, Anisha and Anya Dani. "Diversity, Representation, and Equity in Conservation." Lecture. University of Cape Town, virtual. September 22, 2021.

Gupta, Anisha and Anya Dani. "Authentic and Sustainable Organizational Change." Lecture, Principles, Practices, & Ethics in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage. UCLA/Getty, virtual. October 25, 2020. (Annual lecture)

Gupta, Anisha, LaTanya Autry, Benét Burton, and Nylah Byrd. "Museums Are Not Neutral. Conservation Is Not Neutral." Panel discussion, Society of Winterthur Fellows Town Hall. September 9, 2020.

Gupta, Anisha. 2020. "What's My Path? Deciding What To Do After Graduation." At the 16<sup>th</sup> Association of Research Libraries Annual Leadership Symposium.

Gupta, Anisha. 2019. "Science on Tap Untapped: My Love Affair With Science." At Philadelphia Science Festival.

Gupta, Anisha. 2019. "Leveraging a Disaster to Create Buy-In." At Emergency Planning for Cultural Institutions Symposium, hosted by Alliance for Response and the Philadelphia Area Conservation Association.

Gupta, Anisha. 2019. "Iron Gall Alchemy: Mapping Out a Future for Rusty Old Maps." At American Philosophical Society.

Gupta, Anisha. 2018. "Art Conservation and Preserving Your Cultural Heritage." At San Francisco State University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Gupta, Anisha. 2015. "Effect of Conductivity in Aqueous Cleaning Solutions." At the Bay Area Conservation Science Initiative Exploratory Symposium, Stanford University.

Gupta, Anisha. 2015. "Stain Reduction on a Hepworth Drawing." At Tate Conservation Forum, London.

## **GRANTS RECEIVED**

---

### **AIC Equity & Inclusion Committee strategic planning grant, 2019**

Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

### **George Stout Grant, 2017**

Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation

### **Individual Professional Development Scholarship, 2016**

Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation/National Endowment for the Humanities

### **Student Professional Development Fund Grant, 2016**

Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

## **AWARDS**

---

### **Rutherford John Gettens Merit Award, 2022**

American Institute for Conservation

### **Excellence in Teaching Award, 2013**

Department of Chemistry at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

---

American Institute for Conservation (AIC), Professional Associate	2011 – Present
---	----------------

Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists (ARCS)	2020 – 2021
--	-------------



Association of Print Scholars	2016 – Present
International Institute for Conservation	2021 – Present
International Network for the Conservation of Contemporary Art	2016 – Present
Society of Winterthur Fellows	2018 – 2021
Philadelphia Area Conservation Association	2018 – 2021