

CAROL WOODS SAWYER

Margaret H. and William E. Massey Sr. Conservator of Paintings

RÉSUMÉ

CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

Head of Painting Conservation and Conservator of Paintings 1984 - Present
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia

Supervise and perform conservation surveys, examinations, treatments, photographic documentation, technical analysis and research on paintings from old master to contemporary. Coordinate, manage and review contractual conservation projects related to South Asian paintings, East Asian screens and scrolls, works of art on paper, photographs, books, and frames. Supervise archival matting and framing of works on paper and photographs. Responsible for department budget and project management, grant applications, and conservation duties related to acquisitions, loans, exhibitions, publications, gallery reinstallations, statewide exhibitions, preservation, and storage. Supervise staff, interns, and volunteers.

Head of Conservation and Conservator of Paintings 1984 - 1990
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia

Directed, reviewed and supervised contract surveys, examinations and treatments on objects and textiles in addition to South Asian paintings, East Asian screens and scrolls, works of art on paper, photographs, books, and frames. Coordinated, supervised and performed surveys, examinations, treatments, photographic documentation, technical analysis and research on paintings from old master to contemporary. Responsible for archival matting and framing of works on paper as well as other duties listed above. Supervised staff, interns, and volunteers. Established Objects Conservation Department in 1990.

Sherman Fairchild Painting Conservation Fellow 1980 - 1984
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York

Performed examinations, treatments, photographic documentation, technical analysis and research on paintings from old master to contemporary.

Painting Conservation Intern 1979, Summer
The Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum, University of Delaware Graduate
Conservation Program, Greenville, Delaware

PUBLICATIONS

Carol W. Sawyer assisted by Marcia Steele, "Poussin's *Holy Family on the Steps*: New Technical Discoveries, Comparisons, and the Washington Copy," *Cleveland Studies in the History of Art*, Cleveland, Ohio, Vol. 4, 1999, pp 112-176.

Carol W. Sawyer, " Nicolas Poussin's *Achilles Among the Daughters of Lycomedes*, A New Perspective," paper in progress.

Vincent Van Gogh's *Wheat Field Behind Saint Paul Hospital, Saint Remy*, with Bruce Hardin Suffield, paper in progress.

SELECTED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Authentication of Achilles Among the Daughters of Lycomedes by Nicolas Poussin, VMFA, gallery lecture, 2006.

Two of a Kind: Cleveland's and Washington's Holy Family on the Steps, Poussin Symposium, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio, 1999.

Discoveries Concerning Poussin's Techniques Made During the Examination & Treatment of Achilles Among the Daughters of Lycomedes, Royal Academy of Arts, London, England, 1995.

Results of Scientific Research, Technical Analysis and Conservation Treatment of Achilles Among the Daughters of Lycomedes by Nicolas Poussin, Nicolas Poussin, 1594-1665, presentation to exhibition review committee from the Royal Academy of Arts and Grand Palais, 1993.

Nicolas Poussin's Achilles among the Daughters of Lycomedes and Related Research, presentations to scholars from NGA, Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Arts Council of Richmond, 1993, 1994.

Technical Considerations: Investigating the authenticity of Van Gogh's Wheat Fields Behind Saint Paul's Hospital, Saint Remy, College of William & Mary, Museum Studies Class, March 1993; and Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, 1993.

Art and the Environment: Causes and Effects of Light, Humidity, Temperature, Mishandling, Vibration, and Airborne Pollutants on Paintings on Canvas and Panel, Docent training, 1995, VMFA Summer Institute for Educators, 1989; and University of Virginia, Graduate School of Fine Art, 1986.

Preliminary Artistic Intentions Revealed through Infrared Reflectographic Examination of an Early 16th Century Flemish Panel Painting, Christ Appearing to the Virgin, College of William & Mary, Museum Studies Class, 1992; and Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Art History, 1992.

Proper Preservation and Exhibition Techniques for Paintings Located in Public Galleries, The Virginia State Police Portrait Gallery, Richmond, Virginia, 1990.

Pentiments or Pictorial Alterations Executed by Junius Brutus Stearns in Washington Addressing the Constitutional Convention: Infrared and Radiographic Analysis, Randolph-Macon Women's College, Art History Class, 1988.

Efflorescence & Tempera Panel Paintings by Andrew Wyeth: Causes and Conservation Resolutions, Virginia Commonwealth University, Graduate Art History Department, 1987.

Condition Problems Caused by Artist Technique verses Natural Deterioration, University of Virginia, Graduate School of Fine Art, 1985; and College of William & Mary, Museum Studies Class, 1985.

SELECTED RESEARCH

Poussin: Authentication and analysis of Achilles Among the Daughters of Lycomedes by Nicolas Poussin and related technical research on paintings by Poussin in international and national collections.

Invited participant in Colloquy VI, "Nicolas Poussin's *Holy Family on the Steps*," Center for Advanced Studies in The Visual Arts, May 1994.

Van Gogh: Authentication and analysis of *Wheat Field Behind Saint Paul Hospital, Saint Remy* by Vincent Van Gogh, with Bruce Hardin Suffield, and related research on paintings by Van Gogh.

Watteau: Analysis of *The Gazer* by Jean-Antoine Watteau.

EDUCATION

Stanford University
Stanford, California
Bachelor of Arts Degree: Double major, Art History, Italian, 1976

Villa Schifanoia, Rosary College Graduate School of Fine Arts
Florence, Italy
Master of Fine Arts Degree in Art Conservation, 1980

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Pi Mu Iota Italian Honor Society, Stanford University 1976
Rotary International Foundation Fellow 1977, 1978
Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellow 1978, 1979
Leopold Schepp Foundation Fellow 1979, 1980
Katherine B. Child Scholar 1979, 1980
American Business Woman's Association Scholar 1979, 1980

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

International Institute for Conservation (IIC)
American Institute for Conservation (AIC): Paintings Specialty Group, Book & Paper Group,
Research & Technology Group
International Committee of Museums: Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC): Working
Groups: Paintings, Scientific Study, Theory & History in Conservation and Restoration
ICOM-US, formerly AAM/ICOM
Western Association for Art Conservation (WAAC)
Washington Conservation Guild (WCG)
Virginia Conservation Association (VCA)
American Association of Museums (AAM)
College Art Association (CAA)