

## **MA Conservation of Fine Art** **Class of 2018**

### **Anna Bennett**

Anna graduated from Northumbria University with a BA(Hons) Fine Art in 2016. Whilst starting out as a figurative painter of the human form, during the course of the degree, her style was adapted and began using film and photography to exploit the interior of abandoned buildings. For her degree show, found objects of a degraded nature were manipulated by partial restoration. Wooden household objects, found in the derelict sites were re-animated by cleaning, sanding and re-varnishing parts of the objects to a pristine state. Photography and charcoal drawings accompanied the objects depicting the original setting from where they derived. Being inspired from her undergraduate course, conservation of fine art was the perfect medium between Anna's love of oil painting and a fascination with the scientific process of degradation.



### **Miranda Brain**

Miranda graduated from the University of St Andrews, Scotland in 2016, with an MA honours degree in Art History. Her undergraduate dissertation focused on the connoisseurial and scientific detection of forged Old Master



paintings and drawings, by infamous forgers Tom Keating and Eric Hebborn. This allowed her to work in contact with a number of respected art historians and conservators, including Bendor Grosvenor and Spike Bucklow. She was introduced to the field by painting conservator Julie Crick, but began her practical conservation experience under paper conservator Nicholas Burnett. She worked for the EDA (European Daguerreotype Association) as part of a European wide team working on the 'Daguerreobase'; a project that sought to digitise more than 25,000 daguerreotype photographs onto an online database. This worked in conjunction with a number of museums and private collectors. Miranda is continuing her studies by specialising in Easel Painting.

### **Claire Hutchison**

Claire graduated from Edinburgh University in 2015 with a BA Hons in Art History. Her specialisms included the Venetian Quattrocento, and the architecture of Andrea Palladio. Whilst at Edinburgh University, she became enthused with Korean art and began to independently study the culture, art and language. Following graduation Claire moved to Seoul, South Korea for a year to learn Korean Language at Yonsei University. Whilst in Seoul she spent much time at Seoul's many museums and galleries. Having had conservation work experience in the past she decided to apply for the Master's degree programme at Northumbria University. This allowed Claire to combine her knowledge of Korean art and history with a vocation that sought to preserve it.



## **Michael Johnston**

Michael Johnston graduated from Birmingham City University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art. Specialising in drawing and painting on both paper and canvas during his time there. His somewhat nomadic life has meant he has spent his time since graduating traveling and working in a number of different schools in Seoul, South Korea teaching infant and junior school students English and science. He returned to the art world in 2016, starting an MA in Conservation of Fine Art specialising in paper at Northumbria University. Coming from an expat family, travel and exposure to different cultures come naturally to him, and in his free time enjoys doing this wherever and whenever he can whether it be abroad or the local area. He also enjoys practicing his own artwork, cycling and film.



painting conservation combines her technical and artistic interests.

## **Jordan Megyery**

Jordan has been creative from a young age and in 2011, made the decision to pursue her love for the arts and completed an undergraduate degree in Fine Art at Northumbria University. During her time there she became increasingly conscious of the importance of artistic and cultural heritage and she felt an urgency to preserve and protect it. Jordan is now enrolled in the Conservation of Fine Art MA specialising in paper objects at Northumbria University and hopes to gain the skills and experience needed to pursue a career as a conservator.



## **Sophie Lamb**

Sophie received her Bachelors in Fine Art from Oxford Brookes University in 2013. As an undergraduate she gained an Erasmus placement at the Vilnius Academy of Arts, Lithuania to study printmaking and traditional painting methods. During her study she interned at the David Roberts Art Foundation, a private collection which exhibits publically, as a gallery intern assisting exhibition planning and handling artwork. After graduation, she travelled to Manchester to complete a foundation year in Engineering. Returning to Kent, she worked as a framing assistant at Sevenoaks Art Shop and as a curatorial intern at the Mascalls Gallery, Paddock Wood, focussing on Modern British art. Studying



## **Anna O'Regan**

Anna was born in Tasmania, Australia. Her undergraduate degree focused on sociology and philosophy. She then gained a MA in Museum Studies and Cultural Heritage from Deakin University in Melbourne, which inspired her interest in conservation. Anna took part in an internship at the University of Melbourne's Louise Hanson-Dyer Music Library (Rare Materials Collections) surface cleaning and rehousing orchestral manuscripts. She moved to the U.K. in 2013 to travel, visit family, volunteer and study conservation. Anna volunteered at the National Trust property Dyrham Park in South Gloucestershire as a Conservation Assistant. After moving to Edinburgh she then began volunteering at Edinburgh University's Centre for Research Collections surface cleaning both books and paper documents. Anna also took part





in a 10-week project with the National Library of Scotland which involved working on a collection of books, maps and pamphlets undertaking basic conservation work, which included surface cleaning, surveying and auditing, and re-housing collections.

### **Sofia Pascual**

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Originally from Madrid, Spain, Sofia graduated in 2011 from the School of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage of Madrid (ESCRBCM) with a Degree in Preservation and Restoration of



Cultural Heritage specializing in paintings. In 2013 she moved to Cardiff to do a BSc in Conservation of Museum Objects and Archaeology at Cardiff University. During her time as an undergraduate she volunteered for 6 months in the Painting Conservation department in the National Museum of Wales (Cardiff), where she gained experience in the conservation of gilded wooded frames and easel paintings. Also for a duration of 18 months she worked as in the Paper Conservation department at the museum. After she graduating from Cardiff University in 2015 she started working in the private studio of Rachel Howells, where she had the opportunity to keep expanding her knowledge and developing her skills as a conservator.

### **Natalie Turner**

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Natalie graduated from Northumbria University in 2006 with a BSc in Forensic Science and trained as a Chemistry teacher at Newcastle University the following year. After completing her training



Natalie was employed by a secondary school and sixth form college in the Northeast of England, where she taught until 2015. It was while

teaching that Natalie began bookbinding as a hobby and became very interested in paper conservation, finally deciding to pursue it as a career. Although still new to conservation, Natalie has demonstrated her commitment to gaining experience through volunteering and has so far completed work experience placements at both Durham County Hall Records Office and at the Mining Institute in Newcastle upon Tyne. Natalie is currently employed at Durham University within Library and Heritage Collections and at Durham Cathedral in the Open Treasure Museum where she works alongside her studies to gain further experience in the heritage sector.

### **Dace Valtere**

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Dace Valtere graduated from London Metropolitan University with a BSc (Hons) in Conservation and Restoration. To broaden her knowledge, she has



also undertaken courses in painting at Skidmore College, New York and Gesso carving at the Ecole Boulle in Paris. During the course of her degree studies Dace completed a work placement in the Frames Conservation Department at the Tate Gallery mentored by Gerry Alabone where she worked on the restoration of a gilded Rococo picture frame. Since graduating Dace has sought to gain practical knowledge and experience by working in the conservation sector, either in a museum environment, private practice or freelance. Amongst the notable customers that she has worked for are the Royal Collection, the household of the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall and Rundale Palace in Latvia.

## **Catriona Whiteside**

Born in England and raised in the United States, she graduated from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, in December 2014. She graduated cum laude with a BA in Chemistry and Art History and a



minor in Japanese. During her studies she wrote a thesis on the application of graphene oxide in art conservation, served as president for the Society for Art Historians (2013-14), placed first, twice, in the University's annual Japanese Speech Contest (2011/2013), and studied abroad in Italy (2014). After graduation, in order to gain pre-programme experience, Catriona worked as an art conservation intern at Lis Art Conservation and Restoration Services in Michigan. During her year and a half internship she worked on a wide variety of paintings under the guidance of Jennifer Lis. She was recently awarded the 2016-2017 Fulbright-Northumbria University Award in Art & Design to aid in her studies at Northumbria University.