



OBJECTS CONSERVATOR
Position Description

Dept: Conservation	Reports to: Senior Paintings Conservator	Direct Reports: TBD	
Type: Full-time	FLSA: Exempt	Date: Nov 7, 2022	Rev. Date:

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Reporting to the Senior Paintings Conservator, the Objects Conservator is responsible for the study, preservation, and treatment of the Wadsworth Atheneum's extensive and exceptional objects collection in accordance with established professional conservation practice and ethical principles. The diverse objects collection includes fine art, decorative art, and utilitarian objects from ancient to contemporary, in a wide variety of materials (including metal, wood, stone, glass, and textiles). The Objects Conservator works closely with other departments throughout the museum (Registrars, Art Preparators, Exhibition Design and Management, Facilities, and Imaging) to advise on safe handling and preserving the collection, and works with Curatorial and Education departments in the development of, and participation in, programming.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Carry out activities to study, preserve and treat objects within the museum's collection in accordance with the AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice.
- Assess and document the condition of objects in the museum's collection.
- Evaluate and prepare objects requested for loan and advise on best practices for the transport of three-dimensional objects.
- Prepare condition reports for objects being sent out on loan, and for objects temporarily lent to the museum from other collections.
- Liaise with departments throughout the museum to advise on best practices for preventative conservation, environmental standards, pest management, and the storage, handling, and display of objects in the museum's collection.
- Educate staff and members of the public on the philosophical foundations of conservation and the practical considerations of treatments through lectures, presentations, and demonstrations.
- Supervise assigned interns, fellows, and volunteers.
- Evaluate, select, and oversee outside specialists for projects relating to objects conservation.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Education and Experience

- A Master's degree in Conservation from a recognized conservation training program with a specialization in objects conservation.
- A minimum of 7 years post-graduate experience in objects conservation.
- Familiarity working with materials and types of objects represented in the museum's collection, including some basic knowledge of works on paper.

Skills and Abilities

- Demonstrated proficiency with the techniques, materials, and equipment used in the study and treatment of three-dimensional objects.
- Broad knowledge of museum best practices and collections management.
- Expert understanding of the philosophical precepts expressed in the AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice.
- Familiarity with methods and equipment used in the technical analysis of museum objects.
- Familiarity with the use of database software, general office software, and imaging software.
- Ability to work collaboratively, with a positive attitude that supports the department's and museum's overarching goals.
- Ability to work independently, strategically establish priorities, and maintain scheduled activities.
- Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal skills.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical Demands

The physical requirements and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an objects conservator to successfully perform the essential functions of the job or may be encountered while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable qualified individuals with a disability to perform the essential functions to the extent the museum may do so without undue hardship. The term "qualified individual with a disability" means an individual who with or without reasonable accommodation can perform the essential functions of the position.

This job operates in a laboratory/workshop, storage areas and museum gallery setting within a building(s) that have both modern and historic architectural elements. This role routinely uses standard office equipment such as computers, phones, photocopiers, filing cabinets and fax machines.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is required to follow and give oral and written instructions; stand, walk, and/or sit for extended periods of time; use hands to finger, handle or feel, reach with hands and arm, and reach above shoulder height. The employee is

regularly required to climb or balance, squat, kneel, and crouch. The employee is occasionally required to lift, drag and/or move up to 40 pounds unassisted. The employee is required to visually or otherwise identify, observe and assess. Special vision abilities required by this job include close vision, color vision, depth perception, and ability to adjust focus. Employee is required to move about their work area, between buildings and the museum grounds, ascend and descend stairs. While performing the duties of this job the employee may be subject to outdoor weather conditions and temperatures. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate and general does not require the use of hearing protection equipment.

DISCLAIMER

The preceding job description indicates the general nature and essential duties and responsibilities of work performed by employees within this classification. It may not contain a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required of employees to do this job. Nothing in this job description restricts management's right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this job at any time nor does it proscribe or restrict the tasks that may be assigned. This job description is subject to change at any time.

HOW TO APPLY

You can do so by sending a cover letter noting the reason for your interest and salary requirements, plus your resume to: HR@TheWadsworth.org.