

# NICOLE L. PETERS

art conservator

## EDUCATION

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Buffalo State College, State University of New York, Buffalo, NY <b>M.A., Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S) in Art Conservation</b>	2013-2016
West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV <b>M.A. Art History</b> Thesis: <i>Meissen Porcelain: Precision, Presentation, and Preservation. How Artistic and Technological Significance Influence Conservation Protocol.</i>	2009-2011
West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV <b>B.F.A. Ceramics</b>	2000-2005
Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute, Jiangxi Province, China <b>Certificate of Study: Fine Art, Language, Art History</b>	2004

<b>Owner and Objects Conservator of Peters Art Conservation Services (PACS), LLC</b> <i>Conservation treatment, preventative conservation, museum collections management and operations, consultation, museum staff training/workshops.</i> PACS works extensively with the National Park Service (NPS) and federal entities, local and state museums, cultural centers, private clients, and historical societies in the preservation and conservation treatment of material cultural heritage. Examples of services include: conservation treatment; collection condition surveys (CCS); storage/ artifact housing/ exhibit mount design and fabrication; XRF and analytical examination; photography and digitization procedures; integrated pest management (IPM); emergency response planning (ERP/MCEOP) and standard operating procedures (SOP); assistance with use, care, and disposition of collection items; assistance with planning/ implementation of furnishing plans for historic structures; museum staff training; supervision of staff, volunteers, and interns. Since the practice's inception in 2015, PACS has worked with collections containing historical, archaeological, cultural, artistic, and ethnographic media. PACS is solely responsible for record-keeping, material/equipment purchasing, managing organizational and project budgets/ bids, grant writing, travel, and the daily operation of business tasks.	Sept. 2015- present 40 hours/week
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## WORK EXPERIENCE / PROJECTS

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<b>Project Conservator, University of Alaska Fairbanks Museum of the North (UAFMN). Save America's Treasures grant (SAT) and Museums Alaska Collection Management Fund (CMF) project.</b> The SAT grant project involved the condition examination, photographic documentation, conservation treatment and rehousing of archaeological objects excavated from the Kobuk River region in the 1940s by archaeologist J. Louis Giddings. The Museums Alaska CMF project involved conducting detailed on-site conservation condition assessments of UAFMN Indigenous watercraft collections, both on exhibit and in collection storage, and providing photographic documentation of condition issues, storage and treatment recommendations, and individually prescribed treatment plans for each watercraft needing conservation treatment.	July- August 2020 40 hours/week
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- Project Conservator, North Cascades Nat'l Park Complex, Marblemount, WA. Conservation Collection Condition Survey (CCS).** June 22-27, 2020  
40 hours/week  
Conducted a collection condition survey on natural history specimens, historical objects from the Davis Collection and the Ebey's Landing Chinese Artifact Collection, and objects on exhibit at the Newhalem Visitor Center. The survey included: condition examination and assessment of each artifact prepared on a custom digitized survey form, conservation requirements/necessity based on a priority scale 1-5, exhibition mounting and storage recommendations, IPM, temperature and RH data analysis, preventative artifact conservation measures, and review of the ERP/MCEOP and current museum security methods in place.
- Associate Conservator, Museum of Indian Arts & Culture (MIAC), Museums of New Mexico (MNM), Santa Fe, NM. Conservation treatment, condition survey, artifact rehousing, analytical study and examination, historical research, consultations with local Native groups and tribal representatives, documentation of indigenous use and repair.** April 2019- March 2020  
40 hours/week  
Project involves the fulfillment of IMLS grant award for the preservation of indigenous historical collections located at MIAC. Treatments focus on: the Maria Martinez legacy pottery collection and historic San Ildefonso ceramics, Navajo silver jewelry and works, and Jicarilla and Western Apache woven basketry.
- Contract Objects Conservator, Sitka National Historical Park, Sitka AK.** Aug. 21-23, 2019  
April 16-21, 2018  
Nov. 12-18, 2017  
May 15-16, 2017  
40 hours/week  
*Artifact conservation treatment, design and fabrication of micro-climates for historical metal collection, mount recommendations and design, condition assessment, and scientific analysis (XRF).*
- Contract Objects Conservator for General Services Administration (GSA), Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, Anchorage, AK. Conservation condition assessment, preventative conservation, digital photography, cyclical maintenance plan and treatment recommendations for storage/exhibition.** Aug. 19-20, 2019  
20 hours
- Grant-project Conservator for Cape Decision Lighthouse Society, sponsored by State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Cape Decision Lighthouse, Kuiu Island, Alaska. Condition assessment of historic fabric, structural analysis, preservation treatment plan.** July 8-12, 2019  
40 hours/week  
Conducted a back-country on-site condition assessment of the Cape Decision Lighthouse lantern room and cupola. Worked collaboratively with preservation specialists, volunteers, board members, and structural engineers to devise an appropriate and feasible short and long-term treatment and maintenance plan for the site and its historic fabric.
- Contract Conservator and Instructor for Museums Alaska Collections Management Fund (CMF) grant project, Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center, Fairbanks, AK. Condition assessment and conservation treatment of dioramas and historical furnishings, museum staff / community workshop on preventative conservation and artifact care.** Jan. 13-26, 2019  
40 hours/week  
Treatment of ethnographic, architectural, historical, and taxidermy objects made from wood, metal, fur/pelt, glass, plastics, and composite materials.
- Contract Objects Conservator, Alaska Region Curatorial Center (ARCC), National Park Service, Anchorage, AK. Conservation condition surveys (CCS), conservation treatment of historical and cultural 3-D objects, rehousing, and conducted preventative care workshops.** Sept. 2018  
200 working hours  
40 hours/week  
Treatment largely on archaeological, cultural, and historical objects.

**Contract Objects Conservator, Dick Proenneke Cabin Complex, Lake Clark National Park & Preserve, National Park Service.** *Conservation condition survey (CCS), NPS staff training, treatment: objects (historic 20th c.)*

Aug. 2017, June 2018  
200 working hours  
50 hours/week

Conducted an on-site detailed CCS of ~500 artifacts housed within the main cabin, four auxiliary structures, and woodshed/outhouse. The survey included: condition examination and assessment of each artifact prepared on a custom digitized survey form, conservation requirements/necessity based on a priority scale 1-5, mounting/ exhibition environment/ storage recommendations, IPM, light measurements, and condition data that may support de-installation of unstable artifacts that will be transported and permanently housed in the Alaska Region Curatorial Center (ARCC).

**Contract Objects Conservator, Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Juneau, AK.**

April 2018  
130 working hours  
40 hours/week

*Totem pole(s) conservation treatment*

Conservation treatment, condition assessment, wood moisture content testing, biocidal treatment and repair of two totem poles: the Wooshketaan totem pole carved by Nathan Jackson (1980) and the Four-Story totem pole carved by John Wallace. Treatments involved surface cleaning, light washing to remove built-up soot and dirt, the reattachment of damaged components with adhesive, and treatment with Bora-Care biocide to kill mold, fungi, mildew, insect, and lichen activity.

**Contract Objects Conservator and Consultant, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, National Park Service, Skagway, AK.** *Artifact conservation, preventative conservation, exhibition mount design & installation, collection condition survey (CCS), X-Ray fluorescence analysis of natural history collections, museum staff and volunteer education & training.*

May 2012-13,  
April 2016-19  
2500 working hours  
40 hours/week

Projects include: Artifact conservation of Gold Rush-era historical artifacts, including treatments of life-size composite automaton mannequins, natural history taxidermy specimens, mixed-media folk artworks, and late-19th to early-20th century historical objects. Collaborative work with curatorial, natural resources, archaeology, and maintenance division to stabilize, relocate, and install artifacts in preparation for the 2016 opening of the Jeff Smiths. Parlor Museum (JSPM). Worked with mount-makers for mount design at JSPM and provided recommendations in accordance to conservation needs of artifacts; assisted with fabrication of brass mounts and installation alongside NPS exhibit mount technician. Worked cooperatively with park leadership, museum and archeology staff, trail crew, and Parks Canada personnel for collaborative project prepare a long-term maintenance plan enforcing federal policies and regulations for Chilkoot Trail historical artifacts and to stabilize large-scale iron steam boiler sinking into the ground along trail.

**Contract Objects Conservator, Sealaska Heritage Institute, Juneau, AK.** *Conservation of T'Dakdeintann Box Drum, Tlingit Clan, Hoonah, AK, and treatment of painted woven spruce root hat (Weaver: Primrose Adams, Painter: Nathan Jackson).*

Oct. 2017, April  
& Dec. 2018  
60 hours total

Condition assessment, conservation treatment, and consultations with elder Ron Williams and T'Dakdeintann clan representatives for the treatment of a kerfed cedar wooden box drum repatriated from the Penn Museum. Photographic documentation, wood and bone consolidation and stabilization, recommendations for mounting and exhibit light levels. Repaired and stabilized contemporary spruce root hat; treatment involved plant fiber consolidation and mending of broken and misaligned warp elements.

**Contract Objects Conservator, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians & Western Art, Indianapolis, IN.** *Conservation condition assessment survey for historic, ethnographic, and contemporary objects for National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant project.*

June 05-16, 2017  
40 hours/week

Conducted a detailed condition assessment survey of 300 American Indian and cultural objects from a significant anonymous gift. Collection items included: ceramics, jewelry, basketry, weavings, clothing, weapons, tools, and ceremonial objects. Provided museum staff with training of fundamental preventative care techniques and instructed basic dry-surface cleaning of artifacts with soft natural hair brushes and low suction with a variable-speed HEPA vacuum.

**Project Conservator, Objects (archaeological, ethnographic, historical, contemporary),  
Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, AK.**

Oct. 2016- July 2017  
40 hours/week

Artifact conservation treatment, condition assessments, and housing recommendations for 1,200 de-installed artworks and artifacts for the Anchorage Museum expansion project and opening of the Rasmuson Wing Gallery and Alaska Exhibit space. Examination, maintenance of associated records and documentation, art-historical research and material analysis, and conservation treatment of ethnographic and historical collection items and mount recommendations were provided. Worked with technicians and pre-program interns on safe object handling, basic preventative conservation methods, and surface cleaning of artifacts. Examples of treatments completed includes: corrosion mitigation and wood/ivory treatment of 50 ulus, stabilization of leather and skin components for cultural objects, consolidation of friable paint on painted wood hats, cleaning and stabilization of full-sized wood and baleen canoes, kayaks, and watercraft, reversal of failing repairs on carved ivory pipe, stabilization of woven grass Aleutian socks, and conservation of rubber and plastic components on contemporary welder's hat.

**Objects Conservation Fellow and Visiting Scholar**

Arizona State Museum, Tucson, AZ

Sept. 2015-Sept. 2016  
40 hours/week

Conducted collections research, technical study, scientific analysis, and artifact conservation treatment of ethnographic and archaeological objects: pottery, textiles, basketry, composite artifacts, and maintenance and preservation of outdoor bronze and stone sculptures. Extensive treatments involving both pottery and basketry: pottery reconstruction, stabilization, and desalination of painted and carved low-fire earthenware vessels were conducted. Extensive basketry stabilization techniques for Tohono O'odham, Pima, Hopi, and Apache woven baskets was also completed, including: weave stabilization of both coiled and woven baskets, stabilization of friable and broken leather components, and corrosion mitigation on ferrous and copper alloy components.

**Archaeological Conservator, Amarna Project Archaeological Site, Tell el-Amarna, Egypt. *On-site archaeological conservation of Amarna Period artifacts***

Dec. 2014- Jan. 2015  
40 hours/week

Conducted on-site collection research, analytical examination (XRF, Polarized Light Microscopy [PLM], and wood and plaster ID), and artifact conservation of plastered and painted Amarna-Period wooden sarcophagi and human remains. Treatment involved stabilization of wood structure, plaster ground, and paint system. High-resolution diagnostic photographic documentation techniques were also executed on-site using a Nikon D700 UV-VIS-IR modified camera and a 60mm Coastal Optics apochromatic macron lens, including: normal, raking, and axial specular illumination, reflected infrared, visible-induced IR luminescence, and UV induced visible fluorescence..

**Decorative Arts and Architectural Conservation, Shangri La: Doris Duke Center for Islamic Art,  
Honolulu, HI**

June-Aug. 2014  
40 hours/ week

Artifact conservation treatment and preservation of architectural carved, painted, and gilt historic Damascene wooden walls, historic fabric, and ceilings in the Syrian Room, and treatment of decorative art collection: stone, ivory, mother of pearl. Treatments involved injected adhesive consolidation of flaking and lifting 'ajami panels, heat-relaxing, and stabilization of lifting paint and gilt layers, as well as structural stabilization and repair of broken large-scale black schist outdoor stone sculptures involving structural stabilization with steel dowel insertion and various resins.

**Objects Conservation of First Nations collection, Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, BC,  
Canada**

June-Aug. 2015  
40 hours/ week

Conducted artifact conservation treatments and condition assessments for First Nations cultural objects, designed and constructed artifact housing and packing systems in preparation for international loan to Museo Del Oro, Bogota, Colombia. Custom-fabricated packing systems and storage mount designs were specialized for each artifact. Worked interdepartmentally on a comprehensive project involving the preservation of museum artifact(s) and the fabrication of reproduction components for selected artifacts in a scheduled to travel internationally in accordance with the laws, policies, and regulations of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act regulations.

**Objects Conservation of Native American objects, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.**

Oct. 2012- Mar. 2013  
40 hours/ week

Collection research, analytical examination, IPM, and artifact conservation treatment of Native pottery, jewelry, textiles, paper items, birch bark boxes, as well as the implementation of an integrated pest management and participation in exhibit installation. Fabrication and installation of a customized mounting sleeve on Lakota quilt for Presidential speech at Tribal Nations Conference. Prepared mounting material, completed stitch diagrams, fabricated mounting sleeve, and helped stitch the mounting sleeve to quilt. Extensive conservation treatments of Anishinaabe quilled birch bark box and low-fired archaeological ceramic figurine: Classic period Maya, Jaina style.

**Objects Conservation Technician, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis, IN.**

Sept. 2011- May 2012  
40 hours/ week

Surveyed culturally sensitive Hopi objects for possible pesticide applications with a pXRF for a NAGPRA project involving culturally sensitive Hopi artifacts scheduled for repatriation. Performed conservation treatment of Native artworks and outdoor bronze sculptures in sculpture park. Extensive work developing IPM program: routine inspections of pheromone and sticky traps placed throughout museum and collections area. Pest eradication treatments by anoxia with enclosures and with low-temperatures to terminate insect and larval life-cycle on infested collection items. Cleaning and removal of insect casings, frass, and debris on post-anoxic treatment collection items. Developed a long-term preventative conservation and IPM plan to survey and surface clean all open-display textiles and monitor for pest damage and/or activity in museum.

**Objects and Outdoor Sculpture Conservation, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN.**

May 2011-March 2012  
40 hours/ week

Art and artifact conservation, documentation, and maintenance of site-specific contemporary outdoor sculpture installations throughout the IMA's, 100 Acres: Art & Nature Park. Sculpture materials included: bronze, stone, plastic, wood, aluminum, rubber, and stainless steel. Completed detailed analytical examination of paint and gloss coatings on Funky Bones, Bench Around the Lake, and Free Basket artworks in 100 Acres using the Micro-Tri-Gloss Glossmeter and the Spectrophotometer CM- 700d/600d instruments and created high resolution archival photographs of each installation.

## POSTERS, PAPERS, AND PRESENTATIONS

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- 2020, Museums Alaska Webinar Series, UAF. Panelist: "Intro to 3-D Object Storage Mounts," Nicole Peters.
- 2019, WAAC Conference, Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA. PAPER /Panel Discussion: "Culturally Collaborative Models for Conservation Decision-Making," Museums of New Mexico Conservation Unit, Landis Smith, Nicole Peters.
- 2018, WAAC Conference, Ghost Ranch, NM. PAPER: "Curation, Conservation, and Preservation at the Dick Proenneke Cabin Complex," Nicole Peters.
- 2018 Museums Alaska Conference, Nome, AK. PAPER: Conservation and Preservation efforts at the Proenneke site," Katie Myers, Daniel Papke, Nicole Peters
- 2017 Museums Alaska Conference, Anchorage Museum, Alaska. PAPER: "Conservation Efforts during the Anchorage Museum Expansion and Renovation," Monica Shah, Sarah Owens, Nicole Peters, Nancy Fonicello, Gwen Matheny, Michele Austin-Dennehy, and Kim Cullen-Cobb.
- 2017 ICOM-CC Triennial Conference: Linking Past and Future: PAPER "Outcomes in the Conservation of Basketry: a review and reflection based on survey and treatment," Nancy Odegaard, Marilen Pool, Betsy Burr, Nicole Peters, Skyler Jenkins, and Gina Watkinson.
- 2017 AIC 45th Annual Conference: Treatment 2017: POSTER "Mending Baskets: Revisiting older approaches with new techniques and inventing better solutions," Marilen Pool, Leah Bright, Betsy Burr, Skyler Jenkins, Nicole Peters, Gina Watkinson, and Nancy Odegaard.
- 2016 41st International Symposium on Archaeometry: POSTER "The on-site analytical study, photographic documentation, and conservation treatment of an Egyptian New Kingdom child coffin," Nicole Peters, Juan Juan

Chen, Lucy Skinner, Dr. Corina Rogge, Alexandra Winkels, Rainer Gerisch. POSTER "Advanced analytical photographic documentation techniques applied on-site to an Egyptian Amarna-Period child coffin." Juian Juian Chen, Nicole Peters

- 2016 AIC's and CAC-ACCR's Joint 44th Annual Meeting and 42nd Annual Conference: Emergency! Preparing for Disasters and Confronting the Unexpected in Conservation: POSTER "Testing a model for multi-faceted engagement and maximized efficiency for collection response under restricted time," Nancy Odegaard, Christina Bisulca, Elizabeth Burr, Mike Jacobs, Alvaro Martes, Nicole Peters, Marilen Pool, Anthony Sweesy, Gina Watkinson.
- 2016 ANAGPIC (Association of North American Graduate Programs in Conservation) annual meeting: PAPER "The on-site analytical study, photographic documentation, and conservation treatment of an Egyptian New Kingdom child coffin," Nicole Peters.
- 2016 West Virginia University Museums/ College of Creative Arts, distinguished alumni invitational lecture: "The role of a conservator and field archaeology: the treatment of an Egyptian child coffin." Nicole Peters
- 2015 University of Cambridge | Subliming Surfaces: Volatile Binding Media in Heritage Conservation conference proceedings publication. "Microscopic observations to track the behavior of cyclododecane crystallization and the effect of crystal formation on fragile porous substrates," Dr. Aaron Shugar, Dr. Rebecca Ploeger, Patrick Ravines, Lucy Skinner, Nicole Peters.
- 2015 TECHNART conference | Non-destructive and microanalytical techniques in art and cultural heritage and 2015 University of Cambridge | Subliming Surfaces: Volatile Binding Media in Heritage Conservation conference. "Microscopic observations to track the behavior of cyclododecane crystallization and the effect of crystal formation on fragile porous substrates," Nicole Peters, Dr. Aaron Shugar, Dr. Rebecca Ploeger, Lucy Skinner.
- 2013 Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Skagway, AK. Guide Series Talk, "Behind the Scenes: Conserving artifacts for Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum." Kelly McCauley, Nicole Peters
- 2012 Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Skagway, AK. Guide Series Talk, "Conserving the Folk Art of Martin Itjen." Katie Bonnano, Nicole Peters.
- 2012 Association of Indiana Museums (AIM) annual meeting: "Context as Initiator: Historical Documentation in the 21st Century," Nicole Peters, Abbott Nixon, Katherine Langdon, Jessica Ford, Richard McCoy.

## PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

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Western Association for Art Conservation (WAAC): 2017-present

Connecting to Collections (C2C) collections care online forum, Volunteer Conservation Consultant, 2016-present.

Museums Alaska, the Statewide Museum Association, Individual Member: 2015-present

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC): 2011-present

## CLASSES / WORKSHOPS GIVEN

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2020. Museums Alaska Webinar Series, UAF. Intro to 3-D Object Storage Mounts: Workshop funded by the Museums Alaska Collection Management Fund grant.

2019. Collections Care Workshop: Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center, Fairbanks, AK. Workshop funded by the Museums Alaska Collection Management Fund grant.

2018. Collections Care & Intro to Museum Materials Webinar: Lake Clark National Park & Preserve, ARCC, Anchorage, AK.

2018. Preventative Conservation and Surface Cleaning workshop: Richard L. Proenneke Cabin Complex, Lake Clark National Park & Preserve, AK.

2018. Storage Mount-making Techniques: sink mounts for 2-D works of art and storage mounts for archaeological artifacts: Klondike Gold Rush Nat'l Historical Park, AK.

2017. Collections Care Workshop: Seward Community Library and Museum, Seward, AK. Workshop organized and sponsored by Seldovia Village Tribe's Seldovia Museum, funded by the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS).

2016. Artifact Care and Material Spot Testing: Arizona State Museum Conservation Laboratory, AZ.

2016. On-site Block Lifting Methodologies/ Lab Excavation Techniques: Rock Art Ranch archaeological site. Arizona State Museum, AZ.

2016. Examination, Chemical analysis, and Conservation of Ceramic Media: Arizona State Museum Conservation Lab/ Monterrey Institute of Technology Heritage Conservation and Regionalism summer course.

2013. Taxidermy, Hide, and Pelt Care: inspection and testing for pesticides using a portable XRF: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK.

2012. DIY Artifact and Heirloom Housing: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Skagway, AK.

2012. Condition Assessment and Basic Care of Family Heirlooms: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Skagway, AK.

## SKILLS

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Preventative conservation/ Collections Management & Care: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs and anoxia/low temperature freezing treatments for active infestations, environmental monitoring and data collection and managing systems: PEM2® datalogger and eClimateNotebook®, collection storage support fabrication and artifact housing, monitoring light levels and taking readings with light meter, HVAC and building assessments and security planning, construction of storage mounts, and ERP (emergency and disaster response planning).

Analytical equipment knowledge: X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy (XRF), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), Raman Spectroscopy, microscopic wood and fiber identification, and pigment and cross section analysis with Polarized Light Microscopy (PLM), microchemical spot testing.

Photographic documentation: Digital and analytical photography techniques including the use of camera filtration and excitation sources for visible, long and short wave UV-induced visible fluorescence, infrared, photogrammetry, X-radiography. Adobe Photoshop, Bridge, LightRoom.

Museum exhibitions: Exhibit mount design recommendations and fabrication, exhibit installation and de- installation, artifact packing and transportation.

Collection management software: TMS (The Museum System), Gallery Systems, Inc., MediaBeacon: Enterprise Digital Asset Management (DAM), EMu: KE Software's Electronic Museum management system, ICMS: Interior Collections Management System, Department of the Interior (DOI), PastPerfect Museum Software.