



Mary Jo (MJ) Davis

Preventive and Paper Conservation

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

1995 – Present	WASHI – private practice in paper conservation
1995 – 2004	Project Director for the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance
1994 – 1995	Post-graduate intern at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center (WACC), Williamstown, MA

EDUCATION:

State University College at Buffalo	1986-1989	B.F.A., Summa cum Laude
State University College at Buffalo	1991-1994	MA and Certificate of Advanced Study in Art Conservation (concentration in paper)
Harvard University, Straus Center Conservation	1993-1994	Certificate of Advanced Study in Art for Conservation (specializing in paper)

CONSULTATIONS AND SURVEYS:

Davis’s work with the **Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance** (VMGA) included site visits and consultations to small, rural historical societies located mainly in historic house structures. Davis is well-versed in the needs and priorities associated with such structures and their collections. Ms. Davis has carried out 22 **Conservation Assessment Program** (CAP) assessments in the past 13 years for Heritage Preservation several with preservation architect, Tom Keefe. Davis is a member of the CAP Advisory Board since 2005 and is actively involved in review of their CAP and ReCAP policies and procedures. (a selection of sites “CAPed” follows)

- President Calvin Coolidge State Historical Site, Plymouth, VT 1999
- Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society, Bar Harbor, ME 2000
- Trumbull Historical Society, Trumbull, CN 2001
- Wethersfield Historical Society, Wethersfield, CT 2003
- Justin Morrill Homestead, Strafford, VT 2003 (with Keefe)
- VT History Center (Vermont Historical Society) Barre, VT 2006 (with Keefe)
- Sheldon Museum, Middlebury, VT 2009 (with Keefe)
- Robert Hull Fleming Museum (University of Vermont), Burlington, VT 2010 (with Keefe)
- Norwich Historical Society, Norwich, VT 2012
- Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Vergennes, VT 2014 (with Keefe)
- Bread and Puppet Museum and complex, Glover, VT 2014 (with Tom Visser)

The **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH) has provided Davis the opportunity to work on specific collections care projects with New England and regional museums and institutions on a variety of topics.

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| • American Precision Museum 2003 | Environmental Monitoring and Collections Preservation Plan |
| • New England Quilt Museum 2004 | Environmental Monitoring Project |
| • Morrill Homestead 2004 | Rehousing of Framed Works of Art on Paper |
| • Fairbanks Museum 2005 | Survey and Rehousing of the Helmut Seiber watercolor collection |
| • Heritage Museums and Gardens 2010 | Emergency Planning and Wet Salvage workshop |
| • St. Regis Mohawk Nation 2010 | Survey of the Black Ash Basket collection and archives |
| • St. Johnsbury Athenaeum 2011 | Condition survey of gilt frames in conjunction with WACC |



WORKSHOP PRESENTER:

Ms. Davis has carried out many workshops nationally and around New England on collections care topics and in particular workshops in emergency preparedness, response and salvage. Davis was chosen as one of ten professionals nationwide to participate in the (AIC) American Institute for Conservation's "Train the Trainers" program in 2000 to teach emergency preparedness, response and salvage to other museum professionals in regional workshops. This was accomplished with her colleague, objects conservator, Barbara Moore. Since then Moore and Davis have written and presented extensively on these topics. (Examples follow)

- Instructor for AIC and the National Trust for Historic Preservation presenting four workshops a National Trust properties on emergency planning, preparedness and response. January 2012 – Villa Fioli, San Francisco, CA; May 2012 – Drayton Hall Charleston, SC; July 2012 – Tenement Museum NYC, NY; September 2012 - Villa Finale, San Antonio, TX.
- Instructor (with Moore) developing and training the AIC rapid response team AIC-CERT in three week long workshops in 2007 and two in 2010.
- American Museum of Natural History, NYC, NY (with Moore) 2004 and 2008 emergency planning, preparedness and response as well as wet salvage of collections.
- Los Angeles County Museum, LA, CA 2007 (with Moore) wet salvage of collections
- Metropolitan Museum of Art May 2013 (with Moore) training of MET emergency response team
- Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance – collections care program statewide from 1996 – 2004 Examples are: "How to Inventory Your Collections", "How to Write a Collections Management Policy", "Housekeeping for Historic Houses", "Establishing an Environmental Monitoring Program for Your Museum", "How To Write a Disaster Plan".

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES:

- *American Institute for Conservation* (AIC), Member since 1989, Professional Associate. Co-Chair of Emergency Committee 2008-2009 and committee member 2006, attendance at annual meetings since 1989.
- Responder for AASLH/AIC Katrina Response (Mississippi coast) 2005.
- *AIC-CERT* member since 2007, instructor, manned hotline during Superstorm Sandy October 2012.
- *Heritage Preservation* (HP) member and CAP surveyor since 1999, CAP Advisory Board 2005 to present.
- Advisory Board for HP's *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report of the State of America's Collections* 2005
- Consultant for the HP Field Guide to Emergency Response and presenter on corresponding DVD, 2006.
- Planning committee member for HP's Alliance for Response in Boston, MA and the State of Vermont.
- *Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board* (VHRAB) member since 2010.
- *Northeast Document Conservation Center* (NEDCC) Advisory Committee 1996 – 2004 and NEDCC Board Member 2004- 2006.
- Grant Reviewer in 1998, 1999, 2002, 2005 for *Institute of Museum and Library Services* (IMLS) Professional Services Program.

PUBLICATION and LECTURES:

"A Study of Visual Techniques Used for the Identification of Watercolor Pigments", The Book and Paper Group Annual. Volume 15, 1996. Presented at AIC annual meeting June 10-14, 1996.

"The Preservation of Vermont's Cultural Heritage", Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation, St. Louis, MO, June 1999.

"Cleaning by the Yard: Vermont's Hand-Painted Theater Curtains", Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation, Portland, OR, June 2004

IMLS Connecting to Collections forum panelist – "*Connecting to Solutions: Covering the Fundamentals*" Atlanta, GA, February 2008.

Webinar instructor for CAP "Preparing for Your Site Visit", May 2012.