

Julia M. Brennan
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Professional Experience

Owner, **Textile Conservation Services, Caring for Textiles**, Washington, DC (1996–present)

- Specializing in the analysis, stabilization, cleaning, custom display, mannequins & installation of textiles.
- Consulting on the implementation of conservation labs, storage repositories, long-term care of collections, artifact inventories, environmental systems, and exhibit development and management.
- Teaching international seminars in preventative conservation, risk management through private and governmental collaborations, to build sustainable indigenous coalitions to preserve cultural heritage.
- Designing and managing multi focus cultural heritage grass roots projects; from adaptation of indigenous knowledge & practices for conservation, assessment, master planning, budget, and staff /capacity training.

Recent Projects and on-going contracts include:

- Project Design, Management for textile conservation training and treatment - Victims' Genocide Clothing and Accessories, Nyamata Genocide Memorial Site, Kigali Rwanda, (US Ambassadors Grant) , Tuol Sleng Genocide Prison Museum, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2016-present)
- Chief Textile Conservator, "Great and Good Friends", US Embassy Thailand exhibition with Smithsonian, Library of Congress, National Archives, Bangkok, Thailand, 2018
- Organizer and facilitator of ASEAN SPAFA SEAMEO Research and Workshop Forums - Textile Conservation in the Tropics: Traditional Preservation Methods and Materials, 2012-present.
- Design & Lead "Conservation of US Embassy Collection of Iwan Tirta Batiks and Preservation Training", Tekstil Museum, Jakarta, US State Dept Cultural Heritage Program, 2015.
- Planning Committee, The Conservation of Material Culture in Tropical Climates: 3rd & 4th APTCCARN Symposiums (Asia Pacific Tropical Climate Conservation Art Research Network), Thailand 2012, Taiwan 2015.
- Establish and Manage Collections, Conservation, and Exhibit Divisions, Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles, Bangkok, Thailand (2008 to 2017)
- Manage founding of National Textile Museum, Bhutan. Preventative Conservation and Textile Training, Preservation and Security Initiatives in rural monasteries. Funded by The Friends of Bhutan's Culture and The Getty Foundation, Bhutan (2000 - 2008)
- Design and lead Cultural Preservation Workshops, US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation Grant, National Bardo Museum, Algiers, Algeria (2008); and National Museum, Antananarivo, Madagascar (2005), and the Ministry of Culture Taiwan Dragon Banner Conservation (2014-present)
- **2000- present - Major Conservation treatments, exhibitions, inventories and risk assessments include:** Smithsonian Museums of American History, American Art, National Museum of African American Museum of History and Culture; Health and Human Services, Hillwood House and Estate, National Museum of the Marine Corp, Sewell Belmont House, The Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Turkish Embassy Washington DC, The John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Berea College KY.

Professional Associate, **American Institute for Conservation (AIC)**; Fellow, **International Institute for Conservation (IIC)**; Founder of Collections Care Network (CCN); **Washington Conservation Guild**

Education

MA Research in Crimes Against Art, ARCA, Amelia, Italy (2010)

Masters classes in Art History, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (1983-1986)

The Textile Museum, Washington, DC, Assistant Conservator and Getty Intern (1988-1995)

Philadelphia Museum of Art & College of Textiles and Science, Apprenticeship & internships, (1982-1987)

Bachelor of Arts, Art History, Barnard College, New York, NY (1981)

Selected Presentations

“Textiles of Human Tragedies: Preservation Efforts at Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum,” Washington Conservation Guild, May 2021.

“From Trauma to Tenderness: Following a ‘Middle Path’ for Conservation Work at Memorial Sites,” Bard Graduate Center, April 2021.

“Establishing the First Textile Archive at Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum,” International Association for Genocide Studies, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2019.

“The Interlacing of War and Weaving: Stories of Preservation, Artistry and Empowerment,” (a little known genre of war related textiles from SEA) Washington DC Benefit for UXO removal, 2018.

“Royal Threads Tying Centuries Together – Conservation Along the Silk Roads”, IIC Palace Museum 2017 Hong Kong Symposium, November 2017.

“Before They are Gone Expanded: Capturing Traditional Textile Preservation Knowledge in Southeast Asia and Latin America”, Linking Past and Present, ICOM CC Triennial Congress, Copenhagen, Denmark, Sept. 2017

“Improvisations and Inspirations in the Field of Preventative Conservation,” Students Choice Lecture, University of Delaware, Winterthur Conservation MA Program, 2014, 2017.

“Conservation of Textile Collections in Tropical Climates”, Workshop in Preservation of Tangible and Intangible Heritage, Paramita Jaya, National Museum of Indonesia and Ministry of Education and Culture, December 2015.

IIC International Institute for Conservation, Hong Kong Congress, 2014 & ICOM-CC 17th Triennial Conference, Melbourne, Australia, 2014 (see titles under publications)

“Deterring the Illicit Art Trade and Preserving Cultural Heritage in Asia: The Essential Role of Collection Care Professionals and Preventative Conservation,” Conference on the Protection of Cultural Property in Asia, sponsored by the Bhutanese Royal Government and Interpol, 2013.

“The Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles: Establishing a Preservation and Conservation Framework,” *The Conservation of Material Culture in Tropical Climates* : APTCCARN Meeting, Bangkok (2012)

“The Role of Conservators in the Illicit Art and Antiquities Trade: Responsibilities and Opportunities,” Legal Issues in Conservation Working Group, International Council of Museums (ICOM CC LIC), Museum of Modern Art, NYC, 2011.

“Monastic Textile Treasures in Bhutan: A Path to Preservation,” International Haji Baba Society (January 2009) Textile Museum (November 2004)

“Teaching in Bhutan: Conservation and Cultural Challenges,” Winterthur UD Program in Art Conservation, Students’ Choice Seminar (February 2007) and The UCLA Getty Conservation Program in Archeological and Ethnographic Materials, UCLA (May 2007)

“The Conservation of Textile Relics in Bhutan: Cultural and Conservation Challenges,” American Institute for Conservation, General Session, Annual Meeting (June, 2006)

“Breaking Ground for Bhutan’s Textile Heritage: Anoxic Storage and Monastic Training,” Washington Conservation Guild (April 2006)

“Teaching Textile Conservation in Madagascar: A Project Sponsored by the US Ambassador’s Fund For Cultural Preservation”, Washington Conservation Guild (2005); The Textile Museum (2007)

“The Conservation of Samplers,” A Symposium at the DAR Museum, Washington, DC. (2005)

“Textile Conservation; Common Problems and Solutions for Small Museums and Historical Societies,” University of Arkansas Little Rock, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation (2002)

Selected Publications

“Inclusive Conservation: Heart Based Science,” Bard Graduate Center, Exhibition Catalog for *Conserving Active Matter*, 2022.

“Our Ancestors Knew Best: Traditional Southeast Asian Textile Treatments and Their Place in Modern Conservation,” editor, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA) and the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles (QSMT) Bangkok, Thailand, 2019.

“Threads of Evidence: Textile and Clothing Remains at Tuol Sleng,” forthcoming publication by Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum.

“Ethical Flexibility and the Principles of Preserving Genocide Clothing,” North American Textile Conservation Conference, 2021. (presentation & paper)

“Protecting Textiles from Insects with Traditional Plant Methods,” *Textiles Asia*, NY, 2020

“Saving Family Heirlooms,” Washington Post Magazine & Home Section, 2019

“Establishing a Collaborative & Creative Approach to the Preservation of Genocide Clothing,” ICOM Kyoto 2019

“Before They are Gone Expanded: Capturing Traditional Textile Preservation Knowledge in SEA and Latin America,” ICOM-CC 17th Triennial Conference, Melbourne, Australia, 2014; ICOM—CC 18th Triennial Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2017.

“Bringing Old Batik Back to Life: Conservation of the American Embassy’s Historic Iwan Tirta Collection”, *Jurnal Wastra*, Museum Tekstil Jakarta, #26, September 2015.

“Textile Conservation in South East Asia: Weaving Together East and West,” *Museum of our Own: In Search of Local Museology for Asia*, conference, Gadjadara University Yogyakarta, 2014

“Thai Textile Conservation: Building Bridges Regionally, Culturally, in a 21st Century Context,” IIC International Institute for Conservation, Hong Kong Congress, 2014.

“Thai Official Rank Robes (Sua Khruai): History, Fabrication and the Conservation of Admiral de Richelieu’s 19th Century Robe,” *Arts of Asia*, 2014.

“National Identities and Global Links: Conserving Asian Textiles in Situ,” *Textiles Asia*, May 2013, Vol. 5.1

“The Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles: Establishing a Preservation and Conservation Framework,” *The Conservation of Material Culture in Tropical Climates: Procedures of the 3rd APTCCARN Meeting*, University of Melbourne and Silpakorn University, 2012.

“To Give Without Discrimination: HMQ Sirikit’s 40 Year Effort to Preserve Thai Textile Traditions,” International Council of Museums, ICOM CC, Triennial Meeting, Lisbon, 2011, pg. 140.

“Teaching Textile Conservation in Asia and Africa,” Chapter for *Textile Conservation: Advances in Practice*, Elsevier, 2010

“A Handbook for the Care of Sacred Objects in Monasteries,” Main Author and editor, Published by Friends of Bhutan’s Culture and the Getty Foundation, Thimphu, Bhutan, February 2008

“Simple Anoxic Storage for Textile Collections in Bhutan,” Proceedings Vol II, ICOM Committee for Conservation, 2008, New Dehli.

“Lemurs and Lambas: Textile Conservation Training in Madagascar,” *The Textile Society of America Newsletter*, Spring 2005, Fall 2007