

Lisa van Wambeck

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Profile

Emerging conservation professional, designer and artist with 14+ years experience in millinery and other hand work, with a focus on repurposing and restoring antique textiles. Pursuing postgraduate education towards a career in textile conservation, preserving textile objects for future generations.

Experience

OWNER, OWLLAMODE MILLINERY 2009-PRESENT

- Using traditional techniques including felt and buckram blocking, hand and machine sewing and hand embroidery to make Victorian and 1920's inspired hats and accessories
- Extensive experience restoring and repurposing antique embellishments to incorporate in new pieces
- Working with clients on custom orders for performances, including Cynthia von Buhler (Ziegfeld's Midnight Frolic, 2015) and Sarah Alden ("Whispering Winds" music video, 2016)

SHOP ASSISTANT, TINSEL TRADING; BERKELEY, CA 2017-PRESENT

- Storing and displaying antique embellishments and textiles
- Communicating with customers about antique textile history, use, and care
- Teaching workshops in 1920's inspired hair accessories and in collage techniques

INTERN, ART CONSERVATION DE RIGUEUR; SAN FRANCISCO, CA MARCH 2023 - MAY 2023

- Hand sewing a new muslin lining for an antique Moroccan wedding ensemble undershirt
- Hand sewing Crepeline™ (stiffened silk mesh) patches to stabilize holes in the sleeves of an antique Moroccan wedding ensemble
- Working with a team to create mounts for artwork and textile exhibition, including hand sewing a bolster for exhibiting a kimono, machine and hand sewing strap linings for quilt exhibitions and fabricating a "hoop skirt" out of Fosshape™ (a batting that stiffens with heat) and PVC for dress exhibition
- Making condition reports for incoming objects
- Packing artworks and textiles for storage

INTERN, BATA SHOE MUSEUM; TORONTO, CANADA SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 2023

- Working with the collection manager to update the records in the museum database of their collection of First Nations, Inuit and Metis objects to reflect the names and language the groups use to refer to themselves, instead of those imposed on the groups through colonization
- Replacing outdated records kept with the objects in storage with the updated records, as well as replacing copies kept as the hard copy database back up
- Numbering newly accessioned artifacts in the conservation lab
- Measuring artifacts and cutting supports to size for display

MILLINER AND PUPPETEER, ZIEGFELD'S MIDNIGHT FROLIC IMMERSIVE THEATER; NEW YORK, NY MAY - SEPT 2015

- Researching, creating, costuming and performing the character of a milliner in 1920's Paris
- Making period specific accessories, available for purchase by event attendees
- Working with puppetry team to perform shadow puppet interludes

Additional Experience in the Arts

10+ YEARS WORKING WITH TEAMS OF PUPPETEERS TO FABRICATE AND PERFORM THEATRICAL SHOWS AND MUSIC VIDEOS INCLUDING:

Puppet fabrication and performance in Cass McCombs music videos with Facing West Shadow Collective: *Absentee* (2018) and *Unproud Warrior* (2022)

Puppet fabrication and show development for *Shadows for Carlos Villa* with ShadowLight Productions, (Asian Art Museum, 2019)

Puppet fabrication and performance in *The Euphoria of Walt Whitman* with Facing West Shadow Collective (The Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA, 2017)

Puppet Fabrication and performance in *Don Cristobal, Billy Club Man* by Erin K Orr and Rima Fand (Here Center for the Arts, NY, NY/Clemente Soto Velez Cultural and Educational Center, NY, NY, 2009-2011)

Education

California State University at Long Beach - Certificate in Costume and Textile Collections Management, 2022

University of California at Santa Cruz - BA, Modern Literary Studies and Film Studies, 1999

Additional Studies

Chemistry for Conservators- Certificate through International Academic Projects, 2023

San Francisco School of Needlework and Design- Classes in goldwork and surface embroidery, introductory and advanced tambour beading 2018 - 2022

Western New York Book Arts Center- Classes in letterpress and bookbinding, volunteer 2013 - 2014