

SANCHITA BALACHANDRAN
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EDUCATION

New York University, The Institute of Fine Arts

New York, NY, 2003

Master of Arts, Art History

Advanced Certificate in Art Conservation

Pomona College

Claremont, CA, 1997

Bachelor of Arts, Art History

APPOINTMENTS

Associate Director, The Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum

Baltimore, MD, 2017 to present

Curator/Conservator, The Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum

Baltimore, MD, 2010 to 2016

Responsible for overseeing all aspects of the museum including collections care, conservation and research; guest lecturing in twenty courses per year; installing and maintaining exhibitions; teaching from the collection; enabling access to objects for teaching and study; rehousing and cataloguing the collection of nearly 13,000 objects; developing and managing the museum's website and online presence in social media; preparing and tracking budgets; and overseeing student staff.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, MD, 2017 to present

Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, MD, 2007 to 2016

Teaching undergraduate seminars in the ethics, history and methodology of art conservation. Courses include: "Freshman Seminar: Technical Research on Archaeological Objects"; "Recreating Ancient Greek Ceramics"; "Examining Archaeological Objects"; "Introduction to Museum Practice; and "Critical Issues in Art Conservation."

Instructor, Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

Winterthur, DE, 2010 to 2012

Taught graduate-level short courses on the materials, techniques and history of metals conservation.

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Museum Studies, Morgan State University

Baltimore, MD, 2008 to 2010

Taught graduate-level semester-long courses on the principles of conservation.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Untold Stories Project Grant, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, \$50,000	2017
Workshop Development Grant, Foundation for the American Institute for Conservation, \$1000	2017
Getty Conservation Institute Scholar Residency, 6-months of salary support and housing for research	2016
Arts Innovation Grant, Johns Hopkins University, \$10,000	2016
Awarded "Fellow" status by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works	2016
Johns Hopkins University Discovery Grant for "Reverse Engineering Ancient Ceramics", PI, \$99,875	2015
Funding from the Deans Office of the Krieger School of Arts and Science for Fall 2015 course, \$5,500	2015
Funding from the Johns Hopkins Program in Museums and Society for Spring 2015 course, \$36,000	2015
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Museums for America Grant Award, PI, \$136,202	2014
Dean's Excellence in Service Award, Johns Hopkins University, \$1000	2011
Fulbright Award, United States-India Educational Foundation for eight months of research in India	2009
Professional Development Scholarship, Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation	2007
The Harvard University Art Museums Baird Fellowship, \$13,000	2004
The J. Paul Getty Museum Travel Award	2002
The J. Paul Getty Trust Fellowship	2001
The Daedalus Foundation Fellowship	2001
The Keeper's Fund Fellowship	2000

PUBLICATIONS

Balachandran, S. and K. McHugh. "Respectful and Responsible Stewardship: Maintaining and Renewing the Cultural Relevance of Museum Collections." Introductory chapter in *Preventive Conservation: Approaches to Collections Storage*. In press. Expected Fall 2018.

"Transformative Spaces: Dr. S. Paramasivan and Conservation Science in India in the Early Twentieth Century." *Studies in Conservation*, 2018. DOI: [10.1080/00393630.2018.1433002](https://doi.org/10.1080/00393630.2018.1433002)

"Pedagogy and the 'Working Collection': Teaching Technical Research and Experimental Archaeology at the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum." Postprints of the October 2016 Penn Museum symposium, "Engaging Conservation: Collaboration Across Disciplines." London: Archetype, 2017: 19-28.

Torres, J., K. Gallagher and S. Balachandran. "Rehousing a 'Working Collection': Perspectives from the Johns Hopkins University Archaeological Museum." *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*, Vol 56, Iss. 2 (2017): 96-112.

"Technical Studies." In *Selections from the Eton College Myers Collection*. Eds. Meg Swaney and Morgan Moroney. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum. 2016.

"New Light on Ancient Faces. Undergraduate Students at Johns Hopkins University Study Roman Egyptian Mummy Portraits." *E-News, International Committee for Egyptology in the International Council of Museums*. May 2016: 8.

"Race, Diversity and Politics in Conservation: Our 21st Century Crisis." *Conservators Converse*, the Blog of the American Institute for Conservation. May 2016.

<http://www.conservators-converse.org/2016/05/race-diversity-and-politics-in-conservation-our-21st-century-crisis-sanchita-balachandran/>

"Reverse Engineering Ancient Greek Ceramics: An Interdisciplinary Collaboration." *National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts Journal*, Vol. 37, 2016: 92.

"Archaeology, Conservation and the 'Cost' of Archaeological Artefacts." *Archaeology in Society: Its Relevance in the Modern World*. Eds. Mary Rockman and Joe Flatman. New York: Springer Press, 2012. 128-134.

"The Use of Cyclododecane in Field Stabilization and Storage of Archaeological Finds." *The Conservation of Archaeological Materials. Current Trends and Future Directions*. British Archaeological Reports International Series 2116. Eds. Emily Williams and Claire Peachy. Oxford: Archaeopress, 2010. 77-87.

"Among the Dead and Their Possessions: A Conservator's Role in the Death, Life and Afterlife of Human Remains and their Associated Objects." *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*, Vol. 48, No. 3 (2009): 197-219.

"Artifact." *Archaeology Magazine*, Vol. 62, No. 6, (November/December 2009): 72.

Balachandran, S. and G. Gates. "When Objects Are Beyond Conservation: Recovering Visual Information from Damaged Artifacts." *International Dunhuang Project*, December 2007.

"Edge of an Ethical Dilemma." *Archaeology Magazine*, Vol. 60, No. 6, November/December 2007: 18-20, 65.

"Object Lessons: The Politics of Preservation and Museum Building in Western China in the Early Twentieth Century." *International Journal of Cultural Property*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (2007): 1-32.

"ANC2002.36." *Bidoun. Arts and Culture from the Middle East*. Spring/Summer 2008.

INVITED TALKS

"The Museum Was Like Heaven, All the Gods Being There: Approaches to the Preservation of Archaeological-Devotional Objects at the Madras Government Museum, India, in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries." Invited presentation for "Indigenous Ontologies of Active Matter" at Bard Graduate Center. *New York, NY. April 2018*.

“Creating and Implementing Authentic Assignments.” Invited presentation for the Center for Educational Resources, Johns Hopkins University. *Baltimore, MD. October 2017.*

“CSI (Ceramics Scene Investigation), Ancient Athens: Investigating Greek Potters and Painters.” Invited lecture at the Toledo Museum of Art. *Toledo, OH. September 2017.*

Invited two-day campus visit at Middlebury College. *Middlebury, VT. October 2016.*

“Adventures in Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning.” Invited talk at the Kress Foundation’s Summer Institute in Technical Art History held Yale University. *New Haven, CT. July 2016.*

“Roman Egyptian Mummy Portraits: Research at the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum.” Ancient Panel Paintings: Examination, Analysis and Research (APPEAR) Conference. British Museum. *London, ENGLAND. April 2016.*

“Of Sculptors, Priests and Chemists ‘Tampering with Old Bronzes’: Disputes Over the Preservation of Ancient Bronze Sculptures in Early Twentieth Century South India.” Walters Art Museum. *Baltimore, MD. January 2016.*

Invited week-long campus visit to the University of Cape Town/Iziko Museums of South Africa to teach a course and deliver a public lecture on “Contemporary Issues in Art Conservation” This project was supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. *Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA. July 2015.*

“Cyclododecane in Field Conservation.” Invited talk at the Yale University Art Museums, Conservation Department. *New Haven, CT. June 2015.*

“Issues in the Field Recovery, Treatment and Technical Analysis of Organic Archaeological Materials.” Invited guest lecture at New York University, Institute of Fine Arts, Conservation Center Field School. *New York, NY, May 2015.*

“Between the Mundane and the Magical: Objects, Fieldwork and Sites at the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum.” Invited speaker in the panel, “Conservation and the Future of Art,” Institute of Fine Arts. *New York, NY. February 2015.*

“‘The Museum Was Like Heaven, All the Gods Being There’: The Early 20th Century Display of Bronze Images in the Madras Government Museum.” Invited speaker, The Walters Art Museum Research Forum, Museum Installation: Aims. *Baltimore, MD. November 2012.*

Invited three-day campus visit and lecture series, Queens University. *Kingston, CANADA. March 2012.*

“Keeping the Dead Alive: Ethical Dilemmas in Conserving Human Remains” Invited talk at the symposium “Ethical Issues in Ethnographic Collections”, Winterthur, University of Delaware, April 2011. Also invited to present this lecture at the Walters Art Museum, *Baltimore, MD. February 2011.*

“Preserving the Gods: Early Twentieth Century Debates in the Conservation of South Indian Bronze Icons in the Government Museum, Madras”. Invited lecture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. *New York, NY. April 2011.*

“The Life and Afterlife of Indian Images.” Invited keynote lecture at the New York University Abu Dhabi Institute. *UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. February 2011.*

“Glorious Icons: How Bronze Images Transformed the Mission of the Government Museum, Chennai,” Rao Bahadur Vemuru Ranganatham Chetty Endowment Lecture, Government Museum. *Chennai, INDIA. January 2010.*

“Among the Dead and Their Possessions: A Conservator’s Role in the Midst of Destruction.” Invited talk at the Annual Conference of the North American Graduate Programs in Art Conservation, New York University. *New York, NY. May 2008.*

“Entangled Objects: The Politics of Preservation and Museum Building.” Invited presentation at the conference, “A Hundred Years of Dunhuang, 1907-2007.” *British Library, London, ENGLAND. May 2007.*

“When Objects are Beyond Conservation: Recovering Visual Information from Damaged Artifacts.” Invited presentation at the 7th International Dunhuang Project Conservation Conference. *London, ENGLAND. May 2007.*

SELECTED PAPERS PRESENTED

“Facial Reconstruction of Ancient Egyptian Mummies: Experiences from the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum.” Co-authored with C. Wilkinson, K. Smith, M. Roughley and J. Garcia. Annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation. *Houston, TX. Expected June 2018.*

"Fieldwork in the University Museum: Using Conservation Approaches to Examine Ancient Art with Undergraduate Students." Annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America. *Boston, MA. January 2018.*

“Perspectives on ‘Diversity’ From the Field of Art Conservation.” Annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America. *Boston, MA. January 2018.*

“CSI (Ceramics Scene Investigation), Ancient Athens: (Re)Picturing Greek Potters and Painters.” The Getty Conservation Institute. *Los Angeles, CA. June 2017.*

“Conservation Science in Early Twentieth Century India: Dr. S. Paramasivan and the Conservation Laboratory at the Madras Government Museum.” Annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation. *Chicago, IL. June 2017.*

“Pedagogy and the Working Collection: Teaching Technical Research and Experimental Archaeology at the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum.” Presented at the symposium “Engaging Conservation: Collaboration Across Disciplines.” University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. *Philadelphia, PA. October 2016.*

“Reverse Engineering Ancient Greek Ceramics: An Interdisciplinary Collaboration.” The J. Paul Getty Museum Villa. *Malibu, CA. August 2016.*

“Race, Diversity and Politics in Conservation: Our 21st Century Crisis.” Annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation. *Montreal, CANADA. May 2016.*

“Reverse Engineering Ancient Greek Ceramics: Education and Research through Replication.” Annual meeting of the American Chemical Society. *San Diego, CA. March 2016.*

“Recreating Greek Pottery.” National Council on Education for the Ceramics Arts. *Kansas City, MO. March 2016.*

“The Conservation and Technical Analysis of Ancient Near Eastern Objects at the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum.” Annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research. *Baltimore, MD. November 2013.*

“Conservation and the University Museum: Challenges and Rewards of Access to Collections.” Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation. *Albuquerque, NM. May 2012.*

“Conservation as a Means of Revealing the Past: Case-Studies from the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum.” Society for Historical Archaeology, *Baltimore. MD. January 2012.*

“Entangled Objects: The Politics of Preservation and Museum Building in Western China in the Early Twentieth Century”. Annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation. *Richmond, VA. April 2007.*

“Re-tracing the ‘Long Old Road in China’: The Dunhuang Wall Paintings and the Ethics of Conservation and Museum Building at the Fogg Art Museum, 1921-1933.” Annual meeting of the Western Association for Art Conservation. *Tucson, AZ. October 2006.* Also presented at the Harvard University Art Museums. *Cambridge, MA, May 2006.*

“The Use of Cyclododecane in Field Stabilization and Storage of Archaeological Finds.” Presented at the conference, “The Conservation of Archaeological Materials—Current Trends and Future Directions.” *Williamsburg, VA. November 2005.*

“The Dunhuang Collection at the Harvard University Art Museums: Research into the Collection and Its Conservation History, and Analytical Study of the Original Techniques of the Tang Dynasty Paintings.” Presented at the British Museum. *London, ENGLAND. June 2005.*

“Conservation, Archaeology and Advocating for Objects at Abydos, Egypt.” Annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt. *Cambridge, MA. April 2005.*

“Conservator-Archaeologist Collaborations: Abydos as a Case Study.” Annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology. *Montreal, CANADA. April 2004.*

“Observations on Conservation in Angkor.” Presented at the General Session of the annual meeting of the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. *Miami, FL. June 2002.*

COURSES TAUGHT

Ancient Color: The Technologies and Meanings of Color in Antiquity, Johns Hopkins University, Spring 2018
 Examining Archaeological Objects, Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2014 and Fall 2013
 Freshman Seminar: Technical Research on Archaeological Objects in the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum, Fall 2015
 Contemporary Issues in Art Conservation, University of Cape Town/Iziko Museums of South Africa, Summer 2015
 Recreating Ancient Greek Ceramics, Johns Hopkins University, Spring 2015
 Egyptian Funerary Arts (co-taught with Betsy Bryan), Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2014
 Global Perspectives on the Museum (co-taught with Elizabeth Rodini), Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2012
 Introduction to Museum Practice, Johns Hopkins University, Spring 2011
 Introduction to Metals Conservation, The University of Delaware/Winterthur, Winter 2010-2012
 Introduction to Conservation Principles, Morgan State University, Spring 2008-2010
 Critical Issues in Art Conservation, Johns Hopkins University, Spring 2008 and 2010, Fall 2016, Fall 2017

GUEST LECTURES IN UNIVERSITY COURSES

Presented guest lectures in 106 courses between 2010 and 2017, with nearly 2000 students reached. These courses spanned numerous departments and programs including Archaeology, Art, Classics, Chemistry, History, History of Art, History of Science, German and Romance Languages, Materials Science and Engineering, Museums and Society, Museum Studies, and Near Eastern Studies, among others.

MEDIA

“Mysteries of the Kylix: Recreating Ancient Greek Ceramics”

18-minute long film based on the undergraduate course “Recreating Ancient Greek Ceramics”, <https://vimeo.com/140393971>

“The Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum”

4-minute long radio essay on Baltimore’s NPR station, <http://wypr.org/post/johns-hopkins-archaeology-museum>

MUSEUM AND FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Museum Conservation Projects

The National Museum of African American History and Culture, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. (2014-2015); The Nature Conservancy, various sites (2008-2010); The National Museum of the American Indian, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. (2007-2008); The Vancouver Museum, Vancouver, CANADA (2005-2007); The Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, Las Vegas, NV (2005-2006); The Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA (2003-2004); The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY (2003); The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA (2001-2002).

New York University Excavations at Amheida

Dakhleh Oasis, EGYPT, 2010 and 2011

Supervising conservator charged with the stabilization and documentation of materials such as wall painting fragments and ceramic animal coffins previously excavated from the site.

The Pennsylvania-Yale-Institute of Fine Arts Expedition

Abydos, EGYPT, 2002 to 2010

Objects conservator responsible for the excavation, conservation, documentation, and storage of archaeological materials found at the site.

Additional Conservation Fieldwork Experience

Architectural Conservation, Inc., Berkeley, CA (Projects from 1998 to 2006); The National Park Service, New York, NY (Projects in 2003 and 2005); The Preah Khan Conservation Project, Angkor, CAMBODIA, for the World Monuments Fund (2000); Villa La Pietra, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, Florence, ITALY (Summer 2000); The Yasmina Necropolis, Carthage, TUNISIA, for the University of Georgia, Athens (Summer 1999); and The Paradesi Synagogue, Cochin, INDIA for the World Monuments Fund (1999).

UNIVERSITY SERVICE**Presenter, Johns Hopkins Leadership Summit****October 2016**

Panelist for the discussion, "Creating Connections: The Arts Across Hopkins and Baltimore."

Member, Advisory Committee, Program in Museums and Society, JHU**2010 to present**

Advisor on organizational and programmatic aspects of the Program in Museums and Society, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Johns Hopkins University.

Member, Exhibition Committee, Johns Hopkins University**2010 to present**

Involved in vetting and advising on exhibitions planned for spaces in the Museums and Libraries at Johns Hopkins University.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**Founder, Untold Stories Project****Nov 2017 to present**

Founded a non-profit and garnered funding for three years of event programming at the annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation specifically related to broadening the ethical framework for the field of art conservation.

Founder, Concerned Conservators and Conservators of Color Groups**Nov 2016 to present**

Founded and facilitated groups of conservation professionals committed to developing anti-oppressive, socially just and inclusive practices within the conservation field. Collaborative work through these groups produced a draft of an inclusion statement for the American Institute for Conservation and organized a "Facilitated Conversation on Inclusion and Equity in Conservation and Preservation" at the 2017 annual meeting.

Member, Executive Committee, Baltimore SCIART**Dec 2015 to August 2016**

Member in the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation supported Summer Research Program in Baltimore at the Interface between Science and Art, a partnership between the University of Maryland, the Walters Art Museum and Johns Hopkins University.

Secretary, Board of Directors, The American Institute for Conservation (AIC)**July 2012 to May 2016**

As a board member, responsible for guiding the strategic planning process, developing and implementing policy, liaising with committees, and overseeing the activities of the national organization of art conservators, numbering four thousand individuals.

Chair and Program Chair, Objects Specialty Group, AIC**July 2010 to July 2012**

Responsible for overseeing all of the activities of the Objects Specialty Group, and reporting activities to the AIC Board as well as the general AIC membership. Planned a three-day session of eighteen papers for the 2011 annual conference.

Committee member, The Archaeological Discussion Group, AIC**June 2007 to June 2011**

Prepared a draft of a white paper on the ethics of conserving unprovenanced archaeological objects. Designed a materials and references checklist for conservators working in field conservation, which was distributed at the 2011 AIC annual meeting.

Field Reviewer, The Institute of Museum and Library Services**2008**

Reviewed grant applications for the grant programs in the categories "Conservation Project Support" and "Save America's Treasures".

FEATURED ARTICLES

- "Pushing Boundaries: The Art of Conservation," Shared Experiences Blog, The Mellon Foundation (August 2017)
<https://mellon.org/resources/shared-experiences-blog/pushing-boundaries-sanchita-art-conservation/>
- "Change Agents," The Getty Around the World Blog, The Getty Foundation (July 2017)
<http://aroundtheworld.getty.edu/usa>
- "Flipped Learning," Johns Hopkins University Arts and Sciences Magazine (Spring 2017)

- <http://krieger.jhu.edu/magazine/v14n2/flipped-learning/>
- “Unlocking the mysteries of classical Greek pottery,” The Baltimore Sun (January 2016)
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-hs-greek-vases-20160117-story.html>
 - “Experiential Archaeology Class Recreates Ancient Ceramics”, Archaeology Magazine (October 2015)
<http://archaeology.org/news/3784-151007-mysteries-of-the-kylix>
 - “‘Archaeology’ features story of JHU students re-creating ancient Greek ceramics,” Johns Hopkins University Hub (October 2015)
<http://hub.jhu.edu/2015/10/09/kylix-video-archeology>
 - “Face to Face,” Johns Hopkins University Arts and Sciences Magazine (Fall 2015)
<http://krieger.jhu.edu/magazine/2015/10/field-notes/>
 - “Unlocking the secrets of ancient Greek pottery,” Johns Hopkins University Gazette (May-June 2015)
<http://hub.jhu.edu/gazette/2015/may-june/datebook-ksas-archaeology-project>
 - “Johns Hopkins students recreate an iconic ancient Greek kylix,” Johns Hopkins University Hub (May 2015)
<http://hub.jhu.edu/2015/05/07/recreating-ancient-greek-ceramics>
 - “Getting Hands-on with Ancient Greece,” Johns Hopkins University Arts and Sciences Magazine (Spring 2015)
<http://krieger.jhu.edu/magazine/2015/05/getting-hands-on-with-ancient-greece/>