
Camille Myers Breeze

CURRICULUM VITAE

Founder of Museum Textile Services, providing analysis, treatment and collections management solutions for collectors and collecting institutions since 1999. The MTS website is a portal for textile conservation and collections-care resources for an average of 10,000 visitors per week. The MTS Learning Lab offers hands-on classes within our laboratory for textile collectors, museum staff, and emerging professionals.

Director & Chief Conservator, Museum Textile Services

- Specialist in conserving and mounting flat textiles and costume spanning the 18th through 20th centuries.
- Scholar and expert in conservation of oversized flags and tapestries.
- Internationally known conservator and scholar of pre-Columbian textiles and mummy bundles.
- Experienced personnel manager, advisor, and mentor to students, pre-professionals, and emerging conservators.
- Co-creator of the Andover Figures[®] archival, reusable costume-mounting system.

Instructor

- Supervisor and instructor of the Museum Textile Services Summer Program in Collections Care and Preventive Conservation, and the Museum Textile Services Learning Lab.
- Textile preservation instructor at the Center for Collections Care at Beloit College in Beloit, WI, since 2018.
- Past instructor of three advanced textile conservation topics at the International Preservation Studies Center in Mount Carroll, IL.
- Founder and instructor of the Ancient Peruvian Textiles Workshop, a textile and mummy conservation course for international professionals held in and around Lima, Peru, from 2005–2010.

Author

- Author of “Opening Doors: Conservation of Tibetan Tangkas at the Mead Art Museum” in the 2013 catalog *Picturing Enlightenment: Tibetan Tangkas in the Mead Art Museum at Amherst College*.
- Published the book *A Survey of American Tapestry Conservation Techniques* through the American Textile History Museum, Lowell, MA, in 1999.
- Author and co-author of scholarly articles for museum and textile professionals since 1995.

Advanced Mellon Fellow, Textile Conservation Center, American Textile History Museum

- Performed examination, research, and conservation of textiles at Lowell, MA, museum from 1998–1999.
- Conserved 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th-century tapestries from private individuals and museums.

Assistant Conservator, Textile Conservation Laboratory, Cathedral of St. John the Divine

- Specialized in the conservation of pre-Columbian textiles and European tapestries in NYC from 1992–1997.
- Assessed, researched, and began conservation of the Cathedral’s 17th-century *Acts of the Apostles* tapestries.
- Analyzed, documented, cleaned, stabilized, and mounted all types of costume and textiles.

EDUCATION

MA in Museum Studies from the State University of New York—Fashion Institute of Technology

BA in Art History from Oberlin College

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AWARDS

2015 Excellence in Exhibits Award

Honorable mention was awarded by the American Alliance of Museum to the exhibit team for “Dear Boston: Messages from the Marathon Memorial.” Museum Textile Services was the textile conservation firm chosen for this project.

2015 Leadership in History Award

The American Association for State and Local History chose the exhibit team for “Dear Boston: Messages from the Marathon Memorial” as the Massachusetts recipient of this annual award.

2014 Honor Award for Restoration

Group award from Maine Preservation to restoration associates who worked on the Farnsworth Homestead, Rockland.

2014 Publication Award

Second place was awarded for the museum catalog *Picturing Enlightenment: Tibetan Tangkas in the Mead Art Museum at Amherst College*, containing an essay by Camille Myers Breeze.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Lecture Grant, Foundation of the American Institution for Conservation, 2022. Support provided for public lecture *Under the Covers: Conserving New England Bed Rugs*, about treatment of textiles for the exhibit “New London Quilts & Bed Covers” at the Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT.
- Individual Professional Scholarship, Foundation of the American Institution for Conservation (AIC), 2017. Funds used to travel to Lima, Peru, to write a chapter for a forthcoming book on conservation at Huaca Malena.
- Speaker and Specialist Grant, US Department of State, 2009. Chosen to consult with several museums in the Dominican Republic on issues of textile conservation.
- Lecture Grant, Foundation of the American Institution for Conservation, 2008. Support was provided to organize and co-present a one-day workshop entitled *Climate Control for Historic Structures*.
- Professional Development Scholarship, Foundation of the American Institution for Conservation, 2007. Funding was awarded to spend two weeks in Spain investigating Spain's approach to the conservation of pre-Columbian textiles.
- Professional Development Scholarship, Foundation of the American Institution for Conservation, 2002. Award deferred costs to attend the annual conference of the Institute of Andean Studies in Berkeley, CA.
- Scholar-in-Residence Grant, Bay State Historical League, 2001. Funding was used to hire a co-curator for the Harvard Historical Society exhibit, “Captured in Clothes: The Abbot Family of Harvard.”
- Research Inventory Grant, Bay State Historical League, 2000. Grant used to create a database of artifacts in the collection of Harvard Historical Society that coincide with major themes of Fruitlands Museums, also in Harvard.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Member and current Chair of the Ethics and Standards Committee of the AIC **2016–present**
- Co-Leader of the Conservator’s Professional Affinity Group, New England Museum Association **2019–present**
- Member of the Latin American Scholarship Committee of the AIC **2006–present**
- Business Member of the New England Museum Association **2000–present**
- Member and Fellow of the AIC **1991–present**
- Member of the Textile Specialty Group Award Committee of the AIC **2012–2016**

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LECTURES AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2022** *Under the Covers: Conserving New England Bed Rugs*, virtual public lecture about treatment of textiles for the exhibit “New London Quilts & Bed Covers” at the Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT. Since 2021, co-organizer of “Ask the Conservators,” a quarterly virtual program for the New England Museum Association.
- 2021** Attended “Woven Cultures: Exploring the Textiles of the Ancient Andes” virtual course through Eagle Hill Institute. Attended Historic Deerfield’s Virtual Museum Course on “Vernacular Architecture of Early New England.”
- 2020** Attended the Textile Society of America and Costume Society of American virtual Symposia. Co-presented “Ask the Conservators” session at the New England Museum Association’s virtual annual conference.
- 2019** Co-Authored and presented *Revisiting Flags Preserved by Amelia Fowler for the United States Naval Academy Museum* at the North American Textile Conservation Conference, Ottawa, Canada. Attended New England Museum Association Annual Conference in Burlington, VT. Attended the AIC Annual Conference, in Uncasville, CT. Attended “Caring for Museums and Historic House Buildings,” through Historic New England.
- 2018** Led a hands-on collections-care workshop for volunteers and staff at Old Sturbridge Village, MA. Taught “Caring for Textiles” webinar for Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). *A Natural Legacy: Conserving Orra White Hitchcock’s Classroom Charts*, given at the ICON Textile Group’s annual meeting in London. Presented hands-on session *Talk Dirty To Me* at the annual NEMA conference in Stamford, CT.
- 2017** Taught “Caring for Textiles” webinar for NEDCC. Gave a fund-raising lecture at Manchester Historical Association, NH, to support conservation of a presidential flag. Participated in a *convocatorio* of researchers in Lima, Peru. Co-presented *You Say You Want a Revolution?* and *Secrets to a Successful Private Practice* at the AIC annual conference in Chicago, IL. Presented *Inside Textile Conservation* to Art-Tech-Innovation, Inc. in Amesbury, MA. Identified by Boston Voyager Magazine as one of “Boston’s most inspiring entrepreneurs.”
- 2016** Demonstrated safe costume-mounting techniques at *Dressing for Show*, New England Museum Association, Newport, RI. Presented *A Ghost of the Civil War: A Man, a Flag and a Frame*, AIC, Montreal, Canada, published in *Wooden Objects Group Postprints* (30). Participated in the 9th World Conference on Mummy Studies, Lima, Peru. Guest lecturer, John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage, Brown University. Chair of round-table discussion on *Forensic Finds: Uncovering and Telling the Stories Hidden in Artifacts* for New England Museum Association, Mystic, CT.
- 2015** Presented *Articulating Bodies: Developing and Disseminating New Tools for Historic Costume Display in Small Museums* and *Speaking Textile Conservation*, New England Museum Association, Portland, ME.
- 2014** Guest lecturer, *Exhibiting Human Remains*, Department of Art/Art History, Wheaton College, Norton, MA. Presented *Evaluating and Choosing Sheer Overlays*, AIC, San Francisco, CA.
- 2013** Authored *Opening Doors: The Conservation of the Mead Art Museum’s Tibetan Tangka Collection*, in “Picturing Enlightenment: Tibetan Tangkas in the Mead Art Museum at Amherst College.” Ed. Marilyn Rhie, University of New England Press. Guest lecturer, *Museum Controversies*, Department of Art/Art History, Wheaton College, Norton, MA. Presented *Alternative Ways to Manage Data: Cloud-Based Data Management Systems*, New England Museum Association, Newport, RI.
- 2012** Presented *Crossing Boundaries between Disciplines in the Conservation of Asian Tangkas* with co-author Kate Smith, AIC, Albuquerque, NM, which was published in *Textile Specialty Group Postprints* (22). Visiting Scholar, Department of Art/Art History, Wheaton College, Norton, MA. Presented, *Speed Dating Meets Condition Reporting*, New England Museum Association, Burlington, VT.

- 2010** Lecturer and reviewer for *Save America's Treasures* grant-funded collections management and rehousing project at Tennessee State Museum, Nashville, TN.
- 2009** Presented *Care of Textiles*, Connecticut League of Historical Organization, Wethersfield, CT. Presented *Conservación Preventativa de Textiles*, Secretaria de Estado de Cultura, Santo Domingo, DR. Taught *Textile Storage on a Shoestring*, North Andover Historical Society, MA.
- 2008** Presented *Textiles: From Household Goods to Museum Artifacts*, Intermuseum Conservation Association, Cleveland, OH. Presented *A Peruvian-American Conservation Collaboration*, AIC, Denver, CO, which was published in AIC Textile Specialty Group *Postprints* (18).
- 2007** Presented *Safe Display of Museum Textiles*, New England Museum Association, Cromwell, CT. Taught *Introduction to Costume Mounting* at Andover Historical Society, MA.
- 2006** Guest lecturer, *Archaeological Textiles of Peru*, Cornell University Department of Textiles & Apparel, Ithaca, NY. Taught *Caring for Textiles* workshops for Dennison Homestead Museum, Mystic, CT; Woodlawn House, Ellesworth, ME; and Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin, OH. Designed and taught *Closing Your Historic House for the Season* at Andover Historical Society, MA.
- 2005** Presented *Conservation of Wallcoverings at Gillette Castle* at Museo de Arte de Lima, Peru. Presented *South American Textiles*, Fashion Institute of Technology Department of Graduate Studies, NY. Guest lecturer, *Caring for Embroidery*, Embroidery Guild of America, Worcester, MA.
- 2004** Presented *Mounting Large Textiles* at Museo de Arte de Lima and Instituto de Conservación y Restauración Yachay Wasi, Lima, Peru. Presented *Conservation of Wallcoverings at Gillette Castle* at AIC, Portland, OR, which was published in AIC Textile Specialty Group *Postprints* (14).
- 2003** Cosponsored and organized *Caring for Flags*, a one-day symposium of regional flag experts, Andover, MA. Presented *Let Freedom's Banner Wave* and oversaw flag adoption program for Memorial Hall Library, Andover, MA. Spoke about flag conservation at public unveiling of a conserved flag at Woburn Public Library, Woburn, MA.
- 2002** Presented *Warped and Twisted* at Fruitlands Museums, Harvard, MA. Curated *Captured in Clothes: the Abbott Family of Harvard* at Harvard Historical Society, Harvard, MA. Hosted a Costume Society of America Regional *Soiree* at the exhibit.
- 2001** Presented *Digitally Printed Textiles: Their Potential Use in Costume Collections and Living-History Museums*, Costume Society of America, Providence, RI, and Textile Conservation Group, Inc., NY. Published same in the Textile Conservation Group Newsletter (23) and WAAC Newsletter (22:2.) Curated *Harvard Quilts* at Harvard Historical Society, Harvard, MA. Presented *Recording History: Harvard's Signature Quilts* at the Historic Textiles Forum, Cooperstown, NY, and Harvard Historical Society. MA.
- 2000** Published *Tapestry Conservation: an Annotated Bibliography* in Textile Conservation News (38) Spring Supplement. Presented *The Evolution of American Tapestry Conservation*, American Institute for Conservation, Philadelphia, PA, which was published in Textile Specialty Group *Postprints* (10).
- 1999** Curated *Threads of Time: Five Hundred Years of Tapestries from the Blau Family* at Telfair Museum, Savannah, GA. Wrote exhibit catalog and presented key-note lecture at exhibit opening. Published *A Survey of American Tapestry Conservation Techniques*, American Textile History Museum, Lowell, MA.
- 1998** Presented *Investigating the origins of the Raphael Tapestries at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine*, Textile Society of American, NY.