

ISABELLA ROSNER

EDUCATION:

King's College London, London, England

PhD candidate with completion date of December 2023, studying 17th-century British and 18th-century American Quaker women's art

- Recipient of a KCL PGR scholarship, covering the full cost of tuition and an additional stipend, an award given to only nine KCL postgraduates each year

Cambridge University, Newnham College, Cambridge, England

MPhil degree (with merit) in History of Art, July 2018

- MPhil dissertation title: 'Using "tongues lesse, and...Needles more": Women's Self-Fashioning through Embroidered Accessories in the Seventeenth to Early Nineteenth Centuries'

Junior year abroad, reading History of Art, 2015-2016

Columbia University, Columbia College, New York City, NY

Bachelor of Arts in Art History May 2017, GPA 3.83 (equivalent to a First)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England

May 2022 - present

Furniture Volunteer

- Information forthcoming

Quaker Tapestry Museum, Kendal, England

April 2022 - present

Volunteer Cataloguer of Textile Collection

- Research and catalogue the museum's large textile collection, ranging from samplers to reticules

National Trust, London, England

November 2021 - present

Tour Guide and Conservation Volunteer, Sutton House

- Lead public tours, clean textiles, and co-organise Sutton House's archive

Grinling Gibbons Society, London, England

June 2021 - present

Assistant Registrar and Exhibition Assistant, for "Grinling Gibbons: Centuries in the Making" Exhibition and Social Media Manager for the Grinling Gibbons Society

- Coordinated delivery of museum objects and handled all associated administrative paperwork
- Led communication with contemporary artists
- Proofread and edited wall labels
- Selected public domain images to accompany museum objects
- Assisted in installation and deinstallation of exhibition at Bonhams
- Currently manage the GGS's Instagram and Twitter pages and write the Society's monthly newsletters

Witney Antiques, Witney, England

September 2020 - present

Co-curator and Co-author of 2022 and 2023 Exhibitions and Social Media Manager

- Co-write and co-curate upcoming exhibition on a century of English samplers, requiring research on nearly 80 examples
- Manage the company's Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok pages

Sew What? Podcast, remote

May 2020 - present

Writer, Producer, and Host

- Run Sew What?, a podcast that celebrates historic needlework and those who stitched it, which has had more than 60 episodes and 67,000 downloads thus far
- Have interviewed major artists such as Bisa Butler and the Gee's Bend quilters and leading curators including Melinda Watt and Amelia Peck

Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich, England

October 2021 – April 2022

Researcher and Cataloguer for Early Modern Textiles

- Researched and wrote labels for the museum's textiles from 1600-1800, available to the public online

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, VA

August 2018 - May 2019

Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Textile Curating

- Catalogued samplers, 17th-century cabinets and caskets, shellwork and waxwork dioramas, printed cottons, and woven silks, which required intensive research and thorough, meticulous analysis of each object
- Spearheaded the accessioning process of historic coverlets, centennial quilts, and 19th-century printed cottons
- Helped install and de-install several exhibitions and seasonal displays in historic homes, taverns, and palaces
- Brought an important 18th-century Virginian wedding dress into the collection

Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, England

February 2018 - June 2018

Volunteer, Education Department

- First assisted and then was asked to run Studio Sundays – free art classes for children held every Sunday
- Guided, assisted, and encouraged children to make projects based on art in Kettle's Yard
- Created a welcoming environment for children and their parents by being enthusiastic and engaging
- Set up and cleaned up the space, assisted professional artists, and collaborated with Kettle's Yard staff to solve problems

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA

June 2017 - August 2017

Collections Intern, Costume and Textiles Department

- Discovered through in-depth research that one of LACMA's embroidered cabinets was likely made by musical prodigy Susanna Perwich, an important discovery in the textile field
- Helped install the major exhibition 'Chagall: Fantasies for the Stage', as well as 'Found in Translation'
- Researched and wrote official LACMA blog post about Guatemalan and Mexican needlework samplers
- Participated in a storage survey of embroidered objects, confirming the accuracy of dates and places of production

Barnard College, Columbia University, New York City, NY

August 2016 - August 2017

Research Assistant, Barnard College Art History Department

- For Professor Anne Higonnet, researched the Metropolitan Museum of Art's early lace collections created by women
- Also researched French fashion from 1797-1804 for Professor Higonnet

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, NY

Summer 2015 and Summer 2016

Curatorial Intern, American Decorative Arts and European Sculpture and Decorative Arts

- Researched Stehli Silks' Americana Prints, Gee's Bend quilts, and 18th-century printed cottons
- Examined 17th-century European samplers and wrote 30+ object labels published on the Met website
- Archived and organized research conducted by a century of textile curators and materials from the founding of CIETA (Centre International d' Étude des Textiles Anciens)

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, England

February - June 2016

Research Intern

- Researched rare motifs on 17th-century samplers and inscriptions on 18th- and 19th-century samplers for a 2017-8 exhibition

Newnham Curatorial Collective, Newnham College, Cambridge, England

February - June 2016

Cofounder and Co-Curator of Newnham's Feminist Art Exhibition

- Curated art exhibition featuring student work, work from Newnham's art collection, and books from its rare book collection
- Ran social media pages, obtained funding, mounted and hung artworks, coordinated opening-night reception, liaised with Newnham's administration, and created art for the show

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS:

Articles:

- Rosner, Isabella. "A Cunning Skill Did Lurk?: Susanna Perwich and the Mysteries of a Seventeenth-Century Needlework Cabinet." *Textile History* 49, no.2 (November 2018): 140-163.
- Rosner, Isabella and Edward Rendall. "Plays, Plague, and Pouches: The Role of the Outside in Early Modern English Plague Remedies." *Journal of Early Modern Studies* (March 2021): 1-15.

Encyclopaedia Entries:

- Rosner, Isabella. "Mary Pennington." In *The Palgrave Encyclopaedia of Early Modern Women's Writing*, ed. Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith (London: Palgrave Macmillan). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-01537-4_205-1.
- Rosner, Isabella. "Anne Whitehead." In *The Palgrave Encyclopaedia of Early Modern Women's Writing*, ed. Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith (London: Palgrave Macmillan). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-01537-4_228-1.

Exhibition Labels:

- Early modern European needlework samplers, Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Early modern textiles, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts

Publications in Progress:

- Rosner, Isabella. "Samplers." In *The Palgrave Encyclopaedia of Early Modern Women's Writing*, ed. Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith (London: Palgrave Macmillan).
- Rosner, Isabella. "Seventeenth-Century Frog Pouches," "Modern Raised Work," and "Early Modern English Raised work." In *The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of World Textiles*, volumes 5, 7, and 8, various editors (London: Bloomsbury Publishing).
- Rosner, Isabella. "The Most Influential Needlework Teachers in American History: Quaker Mother-Daughter Duo Elizabeth and Ann Marsh." In *The Decorative Arts Trust Magazine*.

Selected Blogs and Other Writing:

- Rosner, Isabella. "Workbox." *KCL Centre for Early Modern Studies Blog*, April 2022.
- Rosner, Isabella. "'I plunge headlong into disaster': Unstitching Agnes Richter's Jacket." *The Polyphony*, September 2021.
- Rosner, Isabella. "Early Medieval (mostly) Textiles 14." *Dr Alexandra Makin*, August 2021.
- Rosner, Isabella. "'Black-works, white-works, colours all': Finding Susanna Perwich in her Seventeenth-Century Embroidered Cabinet." *Art Herstory* blog, May 2020.
- Rosner, Isabella. "Stitching History: LACMA's Guatemalan and Mexican Samplers." *LACMA* blog, August 2017
- Seven blog posts for the Costume Society and three for the Textile Society of America.

SELECTED CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND OTHER PUBLIC SPEAKING:

- Panelist, "Stitching Friends from London to Philadelphia: Elizabeth and Ann Marsh's Transatlantic Quaker Needlework." Paper presented at the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies 2022 conference, 30 March-2 April 2022
- Speaker, "Quaker Schoolgirl Needlework in Seventeenth-Century London." Paper presented at the Embroiderers' Guild of America, 12 February 2022
- Speaker, "Virtual Dialogue with Melinda Watt." Paper presented at the Decorative Arts Trust, 10 February 2022
- Speaker, "A Talk with Isabella Rosner of the Sew What? Podcast." Paper presented at the San Francisco School of Needlework and Design, 9 February 2022
- Speaker, "'She once did a pretty deal of fine Needle-works of many Colours': Quaker Schoolgirl Stitching in Seventeenth-Century London." Paper presented at the Institute of Historical Research, 16 November 2021
- Speaker, "Stitching History: Telling the Stories of the Past and Today." Paper presented at the Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, 20 May 2021
- Panelist, "Pictures of men, birds, beasts and flow'rs': Susanna Perwich and the Mysteries of LACMA's Seventeenth-Century Needlework Cabinet." Paper presented at Association for Art History conference, 16 April 2021
- Podcast guest, "Stitching: An Interview with Isabella Rosner," *The Coping in Confinement* podcast, March 2021
- Podcast guest, "Textiles," *The Sisterhood of the Travelling Art Historians* podcast, February 2021
- Speaker, "London Quaker Connections in 17th-Century Needlework." Paper presented at Cambridge University's Centuries of Cloth workshop, 12 January 2021
- Speaker, "Marsh-ing to the Beat of a Different Drum: The Move of Quaker Needlework from England to Philadelphia in the Long Eighteenth Century." Paper presented the Institute of Historical Research, 7 March 2020
- Panelist, "'Grave Hogen Mogen, High and Mighty Frogs!': The Mysteries of Seventeenth-Century Frog Pouches Fashion." Paper presented at the "Fashioning The Early Modern Courtier" conference, St John's College, Cambridge University, 16 May 2018

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

- Research Activity Grant, The Pasold Fund, 2020
- Decorative Arts Trust Research Grant, The Decorative Arts Trust, 2020
- Research, Training and Support Grant, King's College London, 2019-2022

- Travelling Jam Pot Award, American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2022

COMPUTER AND TECHNICAL SKILLS:

- Proficient in Adobe Suite, Microsoft Office Suite, TMS, and social media management (with 20,000 followers across Twitter (@IsabellaRosner) and Instagram (@historicembroidery))
- Skilled in hand and machine sewing, knitting, crocheting, and embroidering
- Reading knowledge in French

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND CONSULTING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Member, Decorative Arts Trust, Association for Art History, Costume Society of America, Textile Society of America, The Textile Society (UK), American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, and Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art & Architecture
- Doctoral and Early Career Research Committee Board Member, Association for Art History
- Consultant, National Civil War Centre, Cordier Auctions and Appraisals, and the Yale Centre for British Art (for the book *Marking Time: Objects, People, and Their Lives, 1500-1800*)