

# ISABELLA MICHELLE STERMAN ROSNER

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## EDUCATION:

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**King's College London**, London, England

PhD candidate starting October 2019, studying women's textiles in 17<sup>th</sup>-century Britain and 18<sup>th</sup>-century America

- 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)

## CURATORIAL, RESEARCH, & GENERAL MUSEUM EXPERIENCE:

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**Sew What?**, London, England

May 2020 – present

*Podcast Writer, Producer, and Host*

- Host, writer, and producer of the "Sew What?" podcast about historic needlework and those who stitched, begun 14 May 2020 and now in its second season, having gathered nearly 30,000 downloads thus far

**Witney Antiques**, Oxfordshire, England

September 2019 – present

*Research Associate, Social Media Manager, and Co-author and Co-curator of Upcoming Book and Exhibition*

- Managing business's Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook pages
- Co-authored and co-curated a book and exhibition about seventeenth-century British samplers in November 2022
- Co-authoring and co-curating a major book and exhibition about seventeenth-century British needlework beyond samplers in October 2023

**Victoria and Albert Museum**, London, England

May 2022 – April 2023

*Furniture Volunteer*

- Scan and catalogue curators' furniture files and auction house files
- Sort historic hard copy files and record files
- Work on CMS to build collection files by subject

**National Trust**, London, England

November 2021 – April 2023

*Conservation and Archive Volunteer, Sutton House*

- Clean historic house's textiles, including curtains, upholstered chairs, and carpets
- Catalogue every object found under the house's floorboards, including seventeenth- through nineteenth-century schoolgirl ephemera such as embroidery patterns, lace fragments, and handwoven linen

**Quaker Tapestry Museum**, Kendal, England

April 2022 – December 2022

*Volunteer Cataloguer of Textile Collection*

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

**Colonial Williamsburg**, Williamsburg, VA

August 2018 – May 2019

*Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Textile Curating*

- Catalogued samplers, 17<sup>th</sup>-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 19<sup>th</sup>-century printed cottons
- Helped install and de-install several exhibitions and seasonal displays in historic homes, taverns, and palaces
- Brought an important 18<sup>th</sup>-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

**Metropolitan Museum of Art**, New York City, NY

Summer 2015 and Summer 2016

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

- Researched Stehli Silks' Americana Prints, Gee's Bend quilts, and 18<sup>th</sup>-century printed cottons
- Examined 17<sup>th</sup>-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' Etude des Textiles Anciens)

**Fitzwilliam Museum**, Cambridge, England

February - June 2016

*Research Intern*

- Researched rare motifs on 17<sup>th</sup>-century samplers and inscriptions on 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century samplers

**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

**Mary Emery Design**, Nantucket, MA

Summer 2014 - Fall 2016

*Research Assistant*

- Researched and wrote biography of Flora Crockett Quattrocchi, prolific 20<sup>th</sup>-century American artist and director of Fernand Léger's art academy, leading to an exhibit at Meredith Ward Fine Art in New York City in fall 2015
- Transcribed Edmondo Quattrocchi's letters from the 1920s

**Nantucket Historical Association**, Nantucket, MA

June - August 2014

*Paid Research and Education Intern*

- Organized, assisted classes, and designed quilting courses to be taught at the historic 1800 House
- Rediscovered and researched the Nantucket School of Needlework, leading to NHA archiving the school's curriculum

### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:**

- "This Work In Hand My Friends May Have": Finding Female Ministers in Alternative Sources" – *Quaker Studies*, December 2022
- Various talks given to the Embroiderers' Guild of America, national and regional meetings
- "The Most Influential Needlework Teachers in American History: Quaker Mother-Daughter Duo Elizabeth and Ann Marsh" – *The Decorative Arts Trust Magazine*.
- "Workbox" – *KCL Centre for Early Modern Studies Blog*, April 2022.
- "Pictures of men, birds, beasts and flow'rs': Susanna Perwich and the Mysteries of LACMA's Seventeenth-Century Needlework Cabinet" – Association for Art History conference, April 2021
- "Plays, Plague, and Pouches: The Role of the Outside in Early Modern English Plague Remedies" – *Journal of Early Modern Studies*, March 2021, co-authored with Edward B.M. Rendall
- "Stitching: An interview with Isabella Rosner" – Coping with Confinement podcast, 23 March 2021
- "Textiles" – Travelling Sisterhood of Art History podcast, 25 February 2021
- "Sampling Samplers: Sartorial Experiments in the 20th and 21st Centuries" – Sartorial Society Series, February 2021
- "London Quaker Connections in 17th-Century Needlework" – Cambridge Centuries of Cloth workshop, January 2021
- Consultant for Yale University Press's *Marking Time: Objects, People, and Their Lives, 1500-1800*

- “Delight Bower of Bliss!”: Examining Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia Wax and Shellwork Shadow Boxes Through a Quaker Lens – Edinburgh College of Art’s Material and Visual Culture Seminar Series, November 2020
- “Marsh-ing to the Beat of a Different Drum: The Move of Quaker Needlework from England to Philadelphia in the Long Eighteenth Century” – IHR’s Education in the Long Eighteenth Century seminar, March 2020
- “A Cunning Skill Did Lurk”: Susanna Perwich and the Mysteries of a Seventeenth-Century Needlework Cabinet’ –*Textile History*, November 2018 issue
- “Grave Hogen Mogen, High and Mighty Frogs!”: The Mysteries of Seventeenth-Century Frog Pouches Fashion’ – ‘Fashioning The Early Modern Courtier’ conference, St John’s College, Cambridge University, 16 May 2018
- “Sitching History: LACMA’S Guatemalan and Mexican Samplers” – LACMA blog, 21 August 2017

#### **AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

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- 2023 BBC/AHRC New Generation Thinker
- Travelling Jam Pot Award, American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2022
- Research, Training and Support Grant, King’s College London, 2019-2022
- Research Activity Grant, The Pasold Fund, 2020
- Decorative Arts Trust Research Grant, The Decorative Arts Trust, 2020

#### **SKILLS AND ORGANISATIONS:**

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- Languages – French (intermediate), Latvian (beginner)
- Computer skills – Microsoft Office, Google Drive, Dropbox
- The Museum System (TMS), database used at major museums including the Met, LACMA, and Colonial Williamsburg
- Costume Society Ambassador, 2020-2021
- Member of the Decorative Arts Trust, Costume Society of America, Textile Society of America, and The Textile Society