

EDUCATION:

King's College London, London, England

PhD, July 2023, thesis entitled “‘Women Professing Godliness with Good Works’: Quaker Women’s Art Before Ackworth and Westtown, circa 1650-1800’

- 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:

Royal School of Needlework, Surrey, England

June 2023 -- present

Curator of Textiles and Contextual Studies Lecturer

- Digitise, photograph, and catalogue the Royal School of Needlework’s large collection
- Give public talks about the RSN collection and the history of embroidery
- Curate exhibitions held at Hampton Court Palace and beyond
- Lead a large team of volunteers
- Oversee the organisation’s first conference
- Teach first year degree students on their Contextual Studies Module

Sew What? Podcast, remote

May 2020 -- present

Writer, Producer, and Host

- Run Sew What?, a podcast that celebrates historic and contemporary needlework and those who stitched it, which has had more than 75 episodes and 120,000 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

Witney Antiques, Witney, England

September 2020 – August 2025

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

- Co-curated and co-wrote November 2022 exhibition and catalogue about English band samplers circa 1630-1730, requiring research on nearly 80 examples
- Co-curated and co-wrote major exhibition and book about early modern schoolgirl needlework beyond samplers, focusing on early Quaker girls
- Managed the company’s Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok pages

Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England

May 2022 – April 2023

Furniture Volunteer

- Scanned and catalogued curators’ furniture files and auction house files
- Sorted historic hard copy files and record files
- Worked on CMS to build collection files by subject

Quaker Tapestry Museum, Kendal, England

April 2022 – May 2023

Volunteer Cataloguer of Textile Collection

- Researched and catalogued the museum’s large textile collection, ranging from samplers to reticules

National Trust, London, England

November 2021 – May 2023

Conservation and Archive Volunteer, Sutton House

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

- Discovered an important suite of seventeenth-century schoolgirl artmaking supplies

Grinling Gibbons Society, London, England June 2021 – December 2022

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

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

SELECTED SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

- Rosner, Isabella. *Stitching Freedom: Embroidery and Incarceration* (Cambridge: Common Threads Press).
- Rosner, Isabella and Rebecca Scott. *"Choice and Precious Work": Treasures from the Schoolroom Parts 1 and 2* (Witney: Witney Antiques).
- Rosner, Isabella and Rebecca Scott. *"I Write the Needles Praise": A Century of Sampler Making, 1630-1730* (Witney: Witney Antiques).

Articles:

- Rosner, Isabella. "'This Work In Hand My Friends May Have': Finding Female Ministers in Alternative Sources." *Quaker Studies* 27, no. 2 (2022): 201-211.
- 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.
- 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.

Publications in Progress:

- 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).