

# Carola Del Mese

Metal conservator BA / MA

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## Summary

I am a qualified metals conservator with an extensive background in the practical creative arts, and both museum and investigative conservation experience. I am familiar with the workshop environment having worked with a broad range of materials from modern plastics to traditional metals. I have worked within and managed small teams to achieve tight deadlines for events, production and fabrication. I believe that this combination of bench skills and interpersonal experience is invaluable as a professional conservator, in a collaborative working environment.

## Qualifications

• MA	Conservation of Metalwork	West Dean College	2022
• Postgraduate Dip	Conservation of Metalwork	West Dean College	2020
• Apprenticeship	Theatrical prop making	Glyndebourne Opera House	1996
• BA	3D Glass Craftsmanship	University of Wolverhampton	1994

## Master's Thesis

An evaluation of the suitability of Paraloid bulked with copper powder, for in-situ fills on non-archaeological copper objects.      Keywords - polymers, adhesive, gap-filler, ethics

## Museum and Conservation Experience

• Work placement	Historic England, Fort Cumberland.	6 weeks.	Feb - Mar 2022
• Volunteer Conservator	Worthing Museum, East Sussex.	2 months.	Aug - Sept 2021
• Volunteer Conservator	Fishbourne Roman Palace.	6 weeks.	June - July 2021
• Internship	Brighton Royal Pavilion conservation.	3 months.	July - Aug 2019
• Historic Interiors Team	The Regency Town House, Brighton.	1 year	2018 - 2019
• Display Assistant	The Old Police Cells Museum, Brighton.	6 months.	2018 - 2019

## Employment History

• Event prop maker	Freelance - Corporate events, theatres and opera Houses, high street brands, arts festivals,	2012 - 2019
• Senior project manager	Prop Studios Ltd, London	2010 - 2012
• Prop Maker	Freelance - including English National Opera, Royal Opera House, Channel 4, Selfridges, Harrods, Liberty	2000 - 2010
• Artist Sculptor, metals	Self-employed, private commissions	2000 - ongoing
• Theatrical Prop Maker	Glyndebourne Opera House	1996 - 2000

References available



## Conservation Skills - Practical

- **Archaeological metals** - micro-excavation, stabilisation, infills and consolidation of copper alloys, ferrous and precious metals. Roman and British pre-history, in preparation for display.
- **Marine conservation** - de-concretion, stabilisation, and treatment of silver and bone objects, and heavily corroded ferrous swords from the Rooswijk wreck (1740).
- **Coating and cleaning** - Lacquering silver gilt Regency tableware following tarnish removal. Wax coating of bronzes including colour matching patinas with pigmented wax.
- **Hot joining techniques** - Silver and soft soldering, PUK welding, basic silversmithing, steel forging, pewter work, metal reshaping, polishing and finishing techniques.
- **Mechanical cleaning techniques** - scalpel, air abrasion, polishing and tarnish removal.
- **Corrosion removal and chelation** - understanding of corrosion mechanisms, passivation and treatment of ferrous and copper alloys - antique and ancient metal objects.
- **Object assessment and documentation** - Identification of conservation issues, development of treatment options and completion of condition and treatment reports.
- **XRF and FTIR analysis** - use of analytical equipment and familiarity with spectra.
- **Health and Safety** - COSHH and risk assessments undertaken.
- **Ethical standards** - Critical evaluation of applications, consideration of cultural heritage and appropriate treatment methods. Awareness and consideration of current conservation issues.

## Interpersonal and transferable skills

- **Team member** - very happy to work within a team, share knowledge with others and take instruction from project managers.
- **Team management** - within events and prop making projects. Coordination between staff, venues, clients, and subcontractors. Enabling team members to take on an appropriate level of responsibility.
- **Advocacy and engagement** - experience speaking with the public, writing project proposals. Creation of social media and promotional content for a creative business and for conservation.
- **Client communication** - confident to negotiate project expectations and outcomes.
- **Time and budget management** - extensive experience within a professional context.
- **Creative thinking** - Confidence with decision making and problem solving to reach a solution.

## Conservation Scholarships and awards

- The Arts Scholars Conservation Award 2020
- Anna Plowden Trust Scholar 2019 - 20
- Anna Plowden Trust and The Clothworkers' Foundation grant for further training. 2021
- York Foundation for Conservation and Craftsmanship. 2021
- BADA Harold Davies prize 2020

## Membership of professional bodies

- IIC
- ICON Emerging Professionals Network committee member.