

# JESSICA VAN DAM

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## PROFILE

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Objects conservator (MA) with a preference for organic objects from a wide range of cultures, time periods and materials. Special interest in ship models, antique toys, ancient Egyptian coffins and Korean cultural heritage. Skilled in color matching, model ship rigging, and dynamic problem solving. Comfortable working both independently and as a member of a team, with experience both within a museum environment and as a freelance conservator. Has a friendly demeanor with an ability to think quickly, work at a fast and efficient pace without losing quality, and pleased to help with the many facets of collections care.

Degrees in Forensic Anthropology (BSc) and Archaeology (MSc) provide transferable skills such as experience handling, identifying, and caring for human remains, respect for different cultures, and decolonizing collections.

Artist specializing in fiber arts (knitting, sewing, etc.), painting (watercolors, oils, etc.) and drawing.

## EDUCATION

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### MASTER OF ART — Conservation of Cultural Heritage

University of Lincoln, Lincoln, UK—2023

Dissertation: Decolonizing Korean Collections Through Conservation and K-pop: An investigation into current trends and opportunities available to conserve and decolonize overseas Korean collections in light of the Korean Wave.

### GRADUATE DIPLOMA — Conservation of Cultural Heritage

University of Lincoln, Lincoln, UK — 2021

### MASTER OF SCIENCE — Archaeology with Specialty in Human Osteology and Museum Studies

University of Leiden, Leiden, NL— 2022

Dissertation: PULLING TEETH: Application of Cementochronology to an Archeological Known-Age-at-Death Collection.

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE—Applied Forensic Science with specialty in Forensic Anthropology

Mercyhurst University, Erie PA, USA — 2014

## EXPERIENCE

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### Assistant Conservator: Peabody Essex Museum, Salem MA — May 2023- Present

Assistant Conservator tasked with the conservation of objects for upcoming exhibitions, loans, and from museum owned historic houses. Responsibilities include but are not limited to; condition assessments and surveys, treatment proposals, documentation, interventive conservation, object handling, and treatment report writing. Worked directly with other conservators, curators, collections management and other museum staff.

### Private Objects Conservator — 2018-Present

2022- Walker Paper Ship Model Project- Worked with Rob Napier, a ship model expert, to clean, stabilize, repair and re-rig a paper ship model made by A. Walker in 1762, currently owned by Dr. Henry Kriegstein, a private collector.

2022- Boston College- repaired a contemporary art piece by Krystine Krytre which had been damaged during transit to their gallery. Repaired several broken ceramic plates which had been damaged in storage.

2022- Westminster College Mummy Project- Worked with Mimi Leveque, Director of *ArchaeaTechnica*, Dr. Jonathan Elias, Egyptologist, and Laura Flückiger, Conservation Technician, on a project to conserve an Akhmimic mummy, 'Pesed', owned by the college under the care of Dr. Sam Farmerie. The mummy, cartonnage trappings and coffin were cleaned, stabilized and repairs aesthetically integrated.

2018- Troop Transport Ship Project- Re-integrated fragments of model ship figures made of cork to provide a more aesthetic representation of the original figures which would have once populated a Troop Transport Ship Model owned by Dr. Henry Kriegstein. The other ship model work was done by Rob Napier.

### Conservation Technician: Peabody Essex Museum, Salem MA — 2018-2020

Worked directly under Mimi Leveque, Conservator of Objects, as an object conservation technician. Responsibilities included but were not limited to; condition assessments and surveys, treatment proposals, documentation, interventive conservation, object handling, and treatment report writing. Worked directly with other conservators, curators, collections management and other museum staff. Was a part of the collections care team which facilitated the opening of a new wing to the museum which opened in 2019 and the move of stored collections to an offsite storage facility. Worked closely with the Maritime collection, the Asian Export Collection, Art and Design Gallery, and the Art and Nature Collection.

### Conservation Intern: Peabody Essex Museum, Salem MA — 2017-2018

Worked with Mimi Leveque, Conservator of Objects, as a pre-program objects conservation intern. Responsibilities included but were not limited to: condition assessments and surveys, treatment proposals, documentation, interventive conservation, object handling, and treatment report writing.

### Egyptology Internship: Harvard University, Cambridge MA— 2013

Worked as a summer intern on the Giza Project at Harvard under Dr. Peter Der Manuelian, Barbara Bell Professor of Egyptology and Director of the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East. Tasks included: transcribing dig notes from various archaeological expeditions to the Giza plateau between 1910-1920, and identifying and matching the human skeletal remains housed in the Peabody Museum at Harvard to the photographic and written dig records from the early Giza plateau archaeological digs. Both the transcripts and documented human skeletal remains were entered into the Giza Project database.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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MA Dissertation 2023: PULLING TEETH: Application of CEMENTOCHRONOLOGY to an Archeological Known-Age-at-Death Collection.

MA Dissertation 2023: Decolonizing Korean Collections Through Conservation and K-pop: An investigation into current trends and opportunities available to conserve and decolonize overseas Korean collections in light of the Korean Wave.

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## PRESENTATIONS

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Association of Asian Studies Conference in Asia: AAS-in-Asia Daegu, South Korea 2023. Presenter on the panel 'Hallyu Unexpected'.

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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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Member of the American Institute of Conservation (AIC).

Member of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS).

Member of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE).

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## SKILLS

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Expert color matching and aesthetic integration.

Model ship rigging- both ship vernacular and practical rigging methods.

Precise hand skills for detailed work with delicate objects.

Experience in wood working with both hand and power tools.

Extensive knowledge of human skeletal remains.

Special interest in the decolonization, care, and conservation of Korea cultural heritage held outside of Korea.

Experience following safety protocols to work with hazardous materials and chemicals.

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## OTHER

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Dual citizen- United States and the Netherlands.

Languages: English (Native), French (near fluent), Dutch (basic), Korean (rudimentary).