

# Winterthur Program in American Material Culture

## Class of 2019



Brooke Baerman

Brooke Baerman spent her childhood in New Hampshire and coastal Maine. She was an avid reader of novels and mysteries, and admired the detectives who solved them. As she matured, she found a way to become a sleuth herself through research and writing. She graduated *Phi Beta Kappa* and *summa cum laude* from Syracuse University with degrees in art history and philosophy. In her Honors thesis, which was awarded Best Capstone in the Humanities, she studied works of art as objects in the context of the first American sculpture garden. This inspired her to explore the narratives derived from the close examination of material culture. After graduating, Brooke studied and worked in museums throughout Massachusetts, including Historic Deerfield, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and the New England Quilt Museum. Most recently, she was the Manager of Curatorial Affairs at the Whistler House Museum of Art, where she coordinated exhibitions, events, and public programming. At Winterthur, Brooke looks forward to continuing her investigation of objects, particularly rare books and ephemera.

Kate Burnett Budzyn grew up touring historic houses and walking the woods and farmlands of the lower Hudson Valley. She graduated *Phi Beta Kappa* and *summa cum laude* from Barnard College, Columbia University, where she studied English and Art History and served as Anna Quindlen Writing Fellow. Kate worked in publishing, pastry and reproductive healthcare before becoming a vintage and antique clothing dealer, an occupation which has inspired her daily to ponder the sociological and ecological imperatives—as well as the pure aesthetic joy—of recycling the material past into our everyday lives. She comes to Winterthur interested in studying textiles and exploring the ways in which clothing works simultaneously as a tool of oppression and expression, especially of female identity. She and her partner are currently fixing up a late-Victorian row house in Philadelphia, where they live amongst their many collections with three long-haired cats.



Kate Burnett Budzyn



Katherine Fitzgerald

A native of New England, Katie Fitzgerald grew up in a family with an avid interest in early American culture. She spent many weekends exploring historic houses and museums throughout the region. An avid traveler, Katie studied Italian, Spanish, and German to better understand objects, people, and how they intersect in a global community. Her desire to understand people and culture through objects led her to a double major in Art History and Italian Studies from Tufts University. After graduation, she worked for Skinner, Inc., most recently in Appraisal and Auction Services and Oriental Rugs and Carpets. These roles allowed Katie ample opportunities to study objects in a variety of areas as well as discuss their histories with specialists, collectors, and interested members of the public. As a Winterthur fellow, Katie looks forward to researching utilitarian and decorative roles of objects including clocks, silver, and painted furniture. In her free time she enjoys rowing, biking, and cooking—from homemade pasta to ice cream.

Carrie Greif is interested in the preformative experience of decorative arts. From making to using, she is drawn to the way that objects build and represent communities. She graduated from George Washington University in 2012, with a BA in History and Philosophy, and minor in Dance. After graduating she worked in the education field while living in South Korea, New Zealand and Washington, D.C. Upon returning to the United States, she began to pursue her interest in Art History and Material Culture. She interned at the Smithsonian American Art Library, the Hirshhorn Museum, and the Chrysler Museum of Art. In fall of 2016, she presented a lecture at the Corning Museum of Glass on the aesthetic resonance of the Blaschka's 20th century glass sea-invertebrate models. From 2016-2017, she worked at Hirsch Glass Curatorial Research Fellow at the Toledo Museum of Art where she assisted in the development of exhibitions and the acquisition of new objects. While at Winterthur she is hoping to garner a deeper understanding of the distinct stories early American objects tell about American culture. In her spare time Carrie is an avid yoga practitioner, runner, and lover of cats.



Carrie Greif





Richard "RJ" Lara

Elizabeth Humphrey became fascinated by objects while living in her Mississippi home town. She studied the folk art and crafts found at the local gallery and various things in her great-grandmother's home. While in Spain, she encountered cathedrals with Islamic architecture and calligraphy and developed her interest in acculturation. Her undergraduate studies at Bowdoin College focused on the relationship between non-Western and Western art, but she also acquired historical and social context from other disciplines. To gain experience, she interned at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art where she created tours and family programming; she also conducted research for exhibitions on Surrealist photography and American portraiture. After receiving her B.A. in Art History and Visual Arts, Elizabeth interned at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. She contributed to the documentation of unidentified subjects found in H. C. Anderson's Greenville, Mississippi, photographic series. At Winterthur, Elizabeth hopes to continue exploring how objects can serve as evidence of cross-cultural interactions and shared identities.

A native of Torrington, Wyoming, Richard "RJ" Lara discovered his love for American history while exploring small-town museums in the Rocky Mountain region. His work on a ranch owned by a harness maker and antique collector further encouraged him to study American history through objects and traditional American craftsmanship. RJ received his B.A. at the University of Wyoming, majoring in Secondary Education and History with a minor in Museum Studies. He was a member of a research team that studied the repatriation of cultural objects looted from Cambodia. With this team, he traveled to Cambodia to study Khmer art, architecture, museums, and cultural heritage. RJ has held the positions of Vice President of the Albany County Historical Society; Curatorial Assistant at the Laramie Plains Museum; and Collections Assistant at the University of Wyoming Art Museum. At the latter, he had the pleasure of co-curating the exhibition, *Identity and Gender Roles: The North American Indian Photographs of Edward S. Curtis*. RJ looks forward to pursuing his interest in leather craftsmanship and horse-drawn transportation at Winterthur.



Elizabeth Humphrey

Alexandra Rosenberg grew up in Northern Virginia. Her passion for anthropology, archaeology, and history was fueled by learning opportunities in Washington, D.C., and visits to Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown. She earned a B.A. from the College of William & Mary, graduating *summa cum laude* and *Phi Beta Kappa* with high honors in Anthropology. Her degree had two concentrations, biological anthropology and historical archaeology. She minored in colonial American history, and earned a certificate in public history from the National Institute of American History and Democracy. Internships and field schools at Mount Vernon's South Grove and Slave Cemetery, Colonial Williamsburg, The Fairfield Foundation, and Eyre Hall shaped her experience in archaeology, historic preservation, conservation, architectural history, public history, public interpretation, and material culture. Alexandra's true love, ceramics, stems from uncovering them during archaeological excavations. At Winterthur, she hopes to utilize her multidisciplinary background to explore the social life of these pieces in global and cultural contexts. In her free time, she enjoys dance, theater, and playing the violin.



Alexandra Rosenberg



Eliza West

Eliza West grew up among the hills and valleys of Vermont. Extensive childhood explorations of the Shelburne Museum and early forays into the clothing-making arts amplified her passion for history and design. She pursued both these interests at University of King's College in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she earned a combined honors degree in Early Modern Studies and Historical Costuming. Through coursework on early-modern science and technology, she became interested in comparing how people designed and invented things in the past and the present. Eliza has interned at Colonial Williamsburg and worked at both Shelburne Museum and Fort Ticonderoga, where most recently she was Head of Costume. In this role, she researched and produced historically-accurate garments for the site's staff, and helped her colleagues use that clothing as an interpretive window into the past. In her spare time, Eliza enjoys contra dancing, and creating both historical and modern clothing for herself. At Winterthur, Eliza is excited to explore the nexus of craft, technology, and design.