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STUDIO PROFILE

The studio was established in 1977 to provide conservation and restoration services to collectors, museums, and the general public.

Based in North West London, our team of 8 currently work across two studios, allowing us to take on a wide spectrum of projects ranging from large 3-dimensional textiles and objects to fine intricate items.

Notable projects include cataloguing, surveying, and implementing appropriate storage and packing solutions for the Rambert Dance Company archive, comprising of Marie Rambert's costumes from the early 1900s to contemporary leotards from the 1980s. We have an ongoing project working on a significant collection of Islamic embroideries, which range from Kiswah panels to large Mahmals, the ceremonial palanquin carried on a camel. Along with a longstanding private client whose collection consists of early Coptic fragments, Persian carpets, and rare European brocades.

The Victoria and Albert Museum's exhibition 'Hollywood Costume' included a number of objects that were treated in the studio. Recent work has been carried out for the Bank of England, The William Morris Gallery, the National Army Museum, The Kyoto Costume Institute, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata. We also have a close relationship with the auction houses; projects have included Schiaparelli jackets, Sogdian fragments, and Moghul embroideries.

SERVICES OFFERED

- Consultancy – surveys & advice on individual objects & collections
- Historical research into objects
- Detailed condition reports - before and on completion of treatment
- Object condition Reports
- Photographic services
- Cleaning – a complete service, wet or dry as appropriate to the object
- After care - a full maintenance programme is available
- Mounting & Display of flat and 3D objects- including exhibitions
- Framing
- Perspex display boxes
- Hanging systems & support requirements
- Storage methods & facilities – 3D & flat objects
- UV screening & Pest Control advice
- Organising Textile Study Tours
- Lectures on Conservation Practice
- Detailed Research

SERVICES OFFERED

- The treatments undertaken are always sympathetic to the nature and age of the item and sensitive to the cultural context of the object.
- All research encompasses culture, historical significance, and religious contexts, and we ensure that all objects conserved are treated with an understanding of their traditions and use.
- Each job is discussed in detail with the client and guidance is offered as to the appropriate conservation procedure.
- Further research can be undertaken on request by the client.

PRIOR TO TREATMENT

- All items are carefully examined to determine the condition, the composition of the object and the rate of deterioration and causes.
- Any prevalent damage, staining or marking is noted and the possible causes and significance of these is considered.
- The presence of past alterations is ascertained. The date of these, and whether they are structurally damaging, is observed.

REPORTS

- A comprehensive condition report and estimate accompany each project.
- This documents the condition of the object prior to work being carried and outlines the proposed treatment.

DURING TREATMENT

- Only the recommended treatments are undertaken as requested by the client.
- Photographic documentation is carried out before, during and after every treatment.
- All work is monitored using time sheets and detailed records are made by each conservator, which is then entered into a database.
- This method of collecting information is useful when producing the final full report on each project, and a 'treatment received' report is prepared if requested by the client.
- Full photographic records for clients are also available on request.

DISPLAY AND STORAGE

- All objects are kept within a secure and environmentally controlled storeroom which regulates humidity, light, temperature, and pest control.
- If work is being carried out on site, all possible factors are taken account, for example limitations on space, the surrounding environment, and the site conditions.

