



Emerging  
Conservation  
Professionals  
Network

Each month, ECPN is proud to introduce one of our amazing Specialty Group Liaisons. Specialty Group Liaisons are volunteers who serve as an intermediary between emerging conservation professionals who are interested in or part of the specialty group they represent. To learn more about ECPN liaisons contact the ECPN Outreach Officers at [ecpn.aic.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:ecpn.aic.outreach@gmail.com) or visit [ECPN's website](#).

For our July feature, please welcome ECPN's new Conservators in Private Practice (CIPP) Specialty Group liaison, Hayley Monroe.

Hayley is a graduate from the UCLA/Getty Conservation Program (class of 2018) and is currently splitting her time as a private conservator for museums, smaller institutions and private owners.



Photo (right): Hayley Monroe, 2018 UCLA graduate, on contract at the Museum of Vancouver in British Columbia.

### **1. Having experienced working in institutions, what were the factors that led you to pursue work in private practice as an emerging conservator?**

As an emerging conservator, looking to move into private practice can be daunting. I always knew that it was a possibility, given that both myself and my husband have recently finished graduate school and are both on the job market. We were lucky enough to both land in Vancouver and I found two fantastic third-year internships at excellent local museums. Since then, Vancouver has turned out to be a great place for us to start our professional lives. I've had the good fortune to have a string of short museum contracts at one of the institutions I interned

for, and several private contracts in between with smaller local institutions as well as private owners.

**2. Are there any particular skills that you feel are important or unique to working in private practice?**

Private practice requires a good dose of flexibility and communication, and can feel like a different world from institutional work. Managing client expectations, realistic and ethical goals, less-than-ideal workspaces, as well as budgeting both time and finances can be challenging, but it can also be incredibly rewarding and exciting. While I'm still very new to this facet of conservation work, it's already been an amazing learning experience and addition to my work-life.

**3. Of all the specializations, why did you decide to pursue objects conservation, and how has this translated into the work you do as a private conservator?**

Above all, I love the variety of materials we encounter in objects conservation. There have been times when I've started a week working on a fragile basket and ended on planning a treatment for a composite object made of deteriorating plastic and metal. I really enjoy the twists and turns that come from working with such a wide range of materials.

**4. Do you have any advice for someone who is considering going into private practice as an emerging professional?**

Build a solid network of colleagues and friends in the field, and don't be shy to ask lots of questions. Of course, networking is something we, as emerging conservators, should all be doing anyhow, but it becomes more of a necessity in private practice. No longer being attached to a specific institution can sometimes feel isolating and does pose unique challenges - who do you turn to when you want to bounce an idea or need to ask a question? How do you design treatments when you realistically do not have access to a wide range of materials? Where do you turn if you want or need something analyzed? How do you stay on top of new developments in the field? Having a network of colleagues and friends is essential for a private conservator, and especially for those just starting out.