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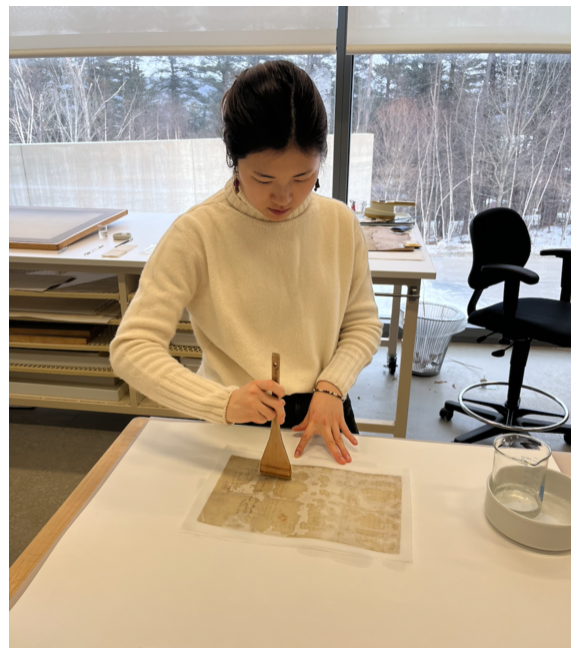
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Presentations

After a multi-year hiatus, the annual Lenett Fellow presentations resumed with a double feature. Two graduate students pursued the fellowship this year, **Delaney Keenan '23** and **So Jeong "SJ" Lim '23**. In a packed, standing-room-only Hunter Studio, the two gave spirited presentations of their work at The Williamstown Art Conservation Center (WACC).

SJ worked with the Paper and Furniture+Frames departments to look closely at garments and objects from the American Revolutionary Period. She presented military design's influence on emerging material culture in early New England through her explorations and treatments of objects ranging from eighteenth-century evening coats to a grocery list folded inside a leather pocketbook.



Delaney worked on portraits from the Albany Institute of History & Art made in the early eighteenth century by artists Nehemiah Partridge and John Heaton, and launched an inquiry into their techniques and ground structures. This project involved surface cleaning, filling, and retouching the portraits while integrating scientific analysis such as microscopy, technical imaging, SEM-EDS, and cross-section stratigraphy to understand the preparatory grounds and pigments used by Nehemiah Partridge and his circle of contemporaries in early 18th century America (c.1700-1740).

"The Judith M. Lenett Memorial Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for art history students to complete a deep, cross-disciplinary experience with art and material culture through the lens of art conservation. SJ's and Delaney's 2023 Fellowship presentations chronicled their wonderful journeys to reveal innately embedded knowledge from their objects through careful examination, deeper understanding of material and technique, and in-depth scientific analysis," said Julie Reilly, the new Executive Director of WACC who arrived to the role in January of this year.

"Refraction and Resistance: Writing African Objects"

On April 14th, **Talia Abrahams '23** convened a graduate student symposium in a collaboration between GradArt and The Research and Academic Program at The Clark. "Refraction and Resistance: Writing African Objects" brought together five PhD students and keynote speaker Joshua I. Cohen, Associate Professor at The City College of New York, to discuss contemporary issues in African art.

The event was organized in conjunction with Anne Lafont's Clark Conference, "The Fetish A(r)t Work: African Objects in the Making of European Art History 1500-1900" that will take place in October 2023 at The Clark, and was born of her Spring 2022 GradArt course "The Making of African Art."

“I was truly blown away by how the symposium materialized. There was harmony and momentum built between each paper as the day progressed, and some great heavy-hitting discourse about how to imagine and facilitate the future of African art. But most importantly, I was inspired by how generous and empathetic the participants were to one another that cultivated a really special day of dialogue,” Talia noted of the experience.

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