

Asian Paintings Conservator

Position Summary

The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) seeks a highly motivated professional for the open Asian paintings Conservation position. The individual will join the staff of the Paper and Photograph Conservation Department. The opening is a full-time position located in Andover, Massachusetts. Founded in 1973, NEDCC is a non-profit conservation and preservation services center supporting the collections of its private and institutional clients.

A Memorandum of Understanding was executed between NEDCC and Nishio Conservation Studio to develop a partnership that meets the needs of collections holding institutions that do not have in-house access to Asian paintings conservation services. This additional position will help fill that client need while further expanding the NEDCC/NCS relationship across a broader client network. For more information about NEDCC and the partnership with NCS, please refer to our website: <https://www.nedcc.org/asian-art>.

Responsibilities

The Asian paintings conservator will perform conservation treatment on East Asian works of art. The conservator will apply their post-graduate skills and experiences to demonstrate the necessary proficiency to perform conservation treatment and full remounting of multi-panel screen paintings (ex., byōbu, píngfēng, and biombo) in all forms and dimensions. The conservator will also be responsible for the conservation treatment and remounting of Japanese and Chinese scrolls, the treatment of Japanese ukiyo-e woodblock prints, and a wide variety of additional artifacts of both western and eastern origin. The candidate must have excellent manual skills and a proper knowledge of conservation theory and standards of practice.

Reporting to the Director of Paper and Photograph Conservation, the Asian Paintings Conservator will:

- Conduct conservation treatments on paper-based works adhering to the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice of the American Institute for Conservation.
- Perform treatments conforming to the collections holding institution's expectations. Evaluate objects, prepare and draft condition reports, and develop treatment plans.
- Collaborate with NEDCC's and NCS's Conservators, Framing Specialists, Registrar, and Imaging Specialists to meet the center's fiscal and strategic goals.

- Perform all duties as assigned in support of NEDCC's conservation activities and to further NEDCC's mission to educate our constituents via webinars and consultations as needed.

Qualifications

Qualifications to apply include a master's degree from a recognized conservation program for Asian paintings or a minimum of ten (10) years equivalent professional training and experience treating Asian paintings. The candidate must be qualified to work in the USA and be proficient in the English language, both written and spoken. Sponsorship of an H1-B visa for international applicants may be available depending on qualifications and requires a minimum commitment of three years, with the option of an additional three-year extension.

Essential skills must include

- Well-developed precision hand-skills
- Excellent eye for color rendering
- Excellent communication skills
- Contextual knowledge of East Asian works of art and their materiality
- Ability to treat fragile, oversized, and historically valuable objects
- Ability to work efficiently while maintaining conservation standards
- Ability to work in a group environment
- Ability to meet deadlines and assist in coordinating group projects
- Ability to think critically and creatively about conservation treatments

The minimum salary for candidates meeting all of the above qualifications is \$65,000. NEDCC offers competitive salaries commensurate with education, experience, and skill. A comprehensive benefits and retirement package is included.

NEDCC is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. This position will remain open until it is filled.

Application Process

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and the names and contact information for three references as a single PDF to: Michael Lee, Director of Paper and Photograph Conservation, at mlee <at> nedcc <.> org.

If selected for an interview, the applicant is expected to present a portfolio of completed projects during the interview process. A presentation before the senior management staff will be required.