

**Victoria Sunnergren**  
(954) 461-1362 • vsunnergren@gmail.com • vsunnergren.com

## **EDUCATION**

**University of Delaware** Fall 2018 – Fall 2023  
*Ph.D. in Art History, Curatorial-Track*  
Andrew W. Mellon Fellow

Dissertation: [\*Clay Kin: A Transhistorical Study of Pueblo Pottery and Third Gender Identities\*](#)

- Comprehensive Examination in Native North American Art, with sections on: Historiography, Eco-Criticism, and Gender and Sexuality; Material Culture Studies; Museum Practice, Connoisseurship, and Decolonizing Museums.
- Language Exams in French and Spanish.

**University of Delaware (UD)** Fall 2016 - Spring 2018  
*Master of Art in Art History*

**The Florida State University (FSU)** Fall 2012 - Spring 2016  
*Bachelor of Art in Art History and Religion; Minor in Museum Studies.*  
Graduate with Honors, Summa Cum Laude

## **FEATURED WORK EXPERIENCE**

Shelburne Museum Oct 2022 - Present  
Associate Curator of Native American Art Shelburne, VT

- Serving as direct supervisor for the Curatorial Fellow for the Native American Initiative.
- Developing and executing exhibitions and publications related to Native American art, both historic and contemporary.
- Working with architects and colleagues to influence the design of the Perry Center for Native American Art (construction underway, expected to open June 2027). Organizing consultations with culture bearers to ensure all aspects of the Perry Center are reflective of the needs of source communities.
- Collaborating with source communities for all exhibition and publication projects. Currently organizing a committee of exhibition consultants for the inaugural Perry Center exhibitions, who have been meeting monthly in 2025 with all museum departments.
- Led the acquisition of the Northeast, Great Lakes, and Southeast portions of the Native American collections from the Ralph T. Coe Center for the Arts (282 works).
- Stewarding the ongoing acquisition of the Perry Collection of Native American Art (almost 300 historic works), as well as additional acquisitions as they arise.
- Working with colleagues in the collections department to ensure both NAGPRA compliance and ethical responsibilities are met regarding duty of care, provenance research and reporting, and repatriation when appropriate.
- Serving on the Shelburne Museum Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion Steering Committee.

## CURATORIAL PROJECTS

Material Kin: Highlights of the Native American Collections (forthcoming, working title) June 2027-29  
Associate Curator Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT

Cradled: Childhood on the Plains (forthcoming) June 2027 - 2028  
Associate Curator Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT

Pleissner: The Wyoming Years (forthcoming) May 2026 - October 2027  
Associate Curator (co-curated) Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT

[Making a Noise: Indigenous Sound Art](#) June - October, 2025  
Associate Curator Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT

- Curated an exhibition of works from five contemporary artists: Aerius Benton-Banai (Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Tribe, b. 1999– ); Chelsea Bighorn (Lakota, Dakota, and Shoshone-Paiute, b. 1989– ); Nanibah Chacon (Diné and Xicana, b. 1980– ); Kite (Oglála Lakḥóta, b. 1990– ); and Marie Watt (Seneca Nation of Indians [Turtle Clan] and German-Scot Ancestry, b. 1967– ).
- Coordinated the creation of two new works for the exhibition.
- Trained guides and staff in appropriate messaging regarding the safe handling of interactive artworks and the exhibition themes.
- Worked closely with museum facilities staff to accommodate large-scale, multi-media works that required in-gallery construction.
- Spoke to media regarding the exhibition, including participating in a [Vermont Public Radio interview](#).
- Led numerous gallery talks, facilitated a [webinar](#) with participating artist Kite, and developed an accompanying [Spotify playlist](#).

[Built from the Earth: Pueblo Pottery from the Perry Collection](#) June - October, 2023  
Associate Curator Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT

- Curated an exhibition of 23 Pueblo pots from the Perry Collection, working in consultation with a committee of 5 Pueblo culture bearers.
- Spoke to media regarding the exhibition, including participating in an episode of [Museum Open House](#).
- Led numerous gallery talks and offered a [webinar](#) discussing the exhibition.

[Grounded Innovation: Pueblo Arts of Clay](#) Spring 2022  
Lead Guest Curator University Museums Gallery, Newark, DE

[“The World is Following Its People”: Indigenous Art and Arctic Ecology](#) Fall 2018  
Member of the curatorial collective University Museums Gallery, Newark, DE

[Truths of the Trade: Slavery and the Winterthur Collection](#) Summer 2018  
Student Co-Curator Winterthur Museum, Gardens & Library, Wilmington, DE

## **ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

Developing New Methodologies in Art Conservation May 2022 - Oct 2022  
*Graduate Research Assistant* Newark, DE

- Conducted a literature review of new developments in the field of Art Conservation.
- Organized meetings with scholars from a wide variety of fields to brainstorm new directions for the field.

University Museums, University of Delaware June 2021 – July 2021  
*Lead Guest Curator* Newark, DE

- Reviewed the university's collection and a private loan collection to develop a checklist for an upcoming exhibition.
- Developed an exhibition title, description, and major themes.
- Wrote several object and thematic labels for the exhibition.
- Worked with a course instructor to determine appropriate readings, guest speakers, and assignments for an associated graduate-level course.
- Edited object and thematic labels written by graduate students.

ThingStor, a University of Delaware Project Aug 2021 - Oct 2022  
*Graduate Research Assistant* Newark, DE

- Managed and edited a database of about a thousand object referenced in American literature and visual art of the nineteenth century.
- Organized a working group of about twenty graduate students, including twice annual "datathons."

University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology June 2020 – July 2020  
*Curatorial Research Intern*  
Philadelphia, PA

- Created catalog worksheets and notes for the online database for 113 works of Zuni pottery in the collection.
- Wrote a research document with collection history overview, defining features of Zuni pottery, a review of literature on Zuni ceramics, a discussion of dating Zuni ceramics, and collection interpretation.

Lafayette Art Galleries Jan. 2020 - May 2020  
*Research Consultant*  
Easton, PA

- Supervised three undergraduate students in researching a collection of Indigenous art and developing a virtual exhibition.
- Wrote object labels for approximately sixty objects and edited student labels for remaining objects in the collection.

Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian June 2019 - Aug. 2019  
*Education Department Intern*  
Santa Fe, NM

Undergraduate Research Program at UD Aug. 2016 - May 2018  
*Graduate Assistant*  
Newark, DE

Undergraduate Research Program at UD June 2017 - Aug. 2017, June 2018 - Aug. 2018  
*Summer Scholar Program Assistant Liaison*  
Newark, DE

Museum of Northern Arizona May 2016 – Aug. 2016  
*Interim Director of Public Programs* Flagstaff, AZ

- Organized three Arts & Culture festivals, working closely with Native American artists to ensure successful festivals for everyone involved.
- Worked closely with Development and Marketing departments to put on successful events and bring in donors and sponsorships.
- Supervised two interns and numerous volunteers and was responsible for paperwork, including vendor fees and performance contracts.

Museum of Northern Arizona May 2014 - Aug. 2014, May 2015 - Aug. 2015  
*Heritage Program Intern*  
Flagstaff, AZ

Museum of Northern Arizona June 2015 - July 2015  
*Discovery Camp Extended Care Teacher*  
Flagstaff, AZ

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Material Kin: Highlights from the Native American Collections* (working title). Rizzoli, forthcoming 2027.

Contributing two peer-reviewed essays, an introduction, and catalogue entries. Managing written and creative works from ten Indigenous contributors. Selected all items and images for inclusion.

[\*Clay Kin: A Transhistorical Study of Pueblo Pottery and Third Gender Identities.\*](#) Doctoral dissertation, available open access through UDSpace. 2023.

[“Zuni Jar.”](#) Otsego Alumni Review. Published August 2019.

[“Jeffrey Gibson: The Anthropagic Effect.”](#) *ASAP Journal*. Published May 2019.

[“Luster.”](#) Published January 2019. Exhibition literature written to accompany “Luster,” an exhibition at Recitation Hall Gallery in Newark, Delaware, in October 2018.

[“Transformation and Resilience in the Shape of an Ulu.”](#) Published September 2018. A highlight essay written to accompany “‘The World is Following Its People:’ Indigenous Art and Arctic Ecology,” an exhibition at the University Museums Gallery in Newark, Delaware, in Fall 2018.

[“Rugs and Silver, Artists and Craftsmen: The Development of Artistic Autonomy in Southwestern Native American Art.”](#) *Florida State University Digital Library*. Published December 2015.

## **DIGITAL PROJECTS**

[Artist Database](#) 2023 – Ongoing

Conceived of and developed a database of over 500 living Indigenous artists, including names, media, example images, and links to artist websites and Instagram feeds. The database is intended to encourage curators, professors, and students to work with and support living Indigenous artists whenever possible.

[ThingStor](#) 2016 - 2022

Worked with Dr. Martin Brückner and an interdisciplinary group of graduate students to build a database of objects referenced in literature and visual arts. Responsible for database management and website design.

[Commeraw Jar Video, Winterthur Museum](#) Fall 2017

Created a video of an object in the Winterthur collection, including designing moving map graphics in After Effects, recording audio in Audacity, and finalizing in iMovie. The video was selected for the 2018 Student Multimedia Showcase at the University of Delaware.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Worthen Library of South Hero, Vermont Aug. 2023  
Invited Talk - Summer Speaker Series  
“Cracks in the Clay: Gender and Historic Pueblo Pottery”

College Arts Association Feb. 2022  
Virtual  
“Blended Materials, Blended Lives: The Art of Tim Edaakie and Bobby Silas”

Native American Art Studies Association Conference Nov. 2021  
Virtual  
“Recovering Agency in the Life and Art of We’Wha”

The Mobile Archive Project Nov. 2021  
Virtual  
“Object Networks in Literature and Art: Showcasing *ThingStor.Org—A Material Culture Database*”

Keystone Digital Humanities Jul. 2021  
Virtual

“Object Networks in Literature and Art: Showcasing *ThingStor.Org—A Material Culture Database*”

Native American Art Studies Association Conference Oct. 2019  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 “Broken Pottery: The Material Failures of Glazed Pottery and the Field Matron Program at Laguna Pueblo, 1899-1910”

Graduate Student Research Presentations Mar. 2018  
 University of Delaware  
 “Broken Pottery: The Material Failures of Glazed Pottery and the Field Matron Program at Laguna Pueblo, 1899-1910”

### **SELECTED ACTIVITIES AND HONORS**

Invited Judge, Classification II - Pottery 2024, 2026  
*Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market*

[Native American Art Studies Association](#) Member 2019 - Present

Attendee, Ucross Symposium: Curating Native American Art June 2023

American Ceramics Circle Grant Awardee 2022

Committee Member, Advisory Council for [In Conversation: Will Wilson](#) 2021 - 2022  
*Delaware Museum of Art*

Global Dissertation Development Grant Summer 2021

[Delaware Public Humanities Institute \(DELPHI\)](#) Summer 2019  
*Summer Research Fellowship in Material Culture Studies*

[Otsego Institute for Native American Art](#) May 2019  
*Fenimore Art Museum*

Co-Chair, [Fifteenth Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars](#) 2018

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Leader Mentor Spring 2015 & 2016  
*UROP Leader Training Course (HUM4924)*, 25-50 undergraduates  
 Created syllabus, assigned readings, prepared and executed lesson plans, graded assignments, mentored students to prepare to serve as UROP leaders.

UROP Leader Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016

*UROP Colloquium (IDS2920)*, 10-15 undergraduates

Created syllabus, prepared and graded assignments, prepared and executed lesson plans, guided students through the process of undergraduate research.

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2016

*University Honors Colloquium (HUM2944)*, 25 undergraduates

Lead small breakout sessions of a colloquium course, assigned and graded capstone projects.