

Julia Carr-Thornton

SUMMARY

Art and Science Historian, Library, Cultural, and Material History Professional and Archivist. Creative and analytical thinker with university-level teaching experience and public presentation skills. Skilled project manager with museum collections and archive management best-practices knowledge, library experience, digital and thematic display curation, metadata development, patron service, and administrative skills. Experienced writer and public speaker on topics in the history of art, the history of science, and general historical topics. Experienced scientific and technical writer. Artist with experience in 2-D and 3-D design, drawing, painting, color theory, and sculpture. Extensive ceramics and materials science knowledge and understanding of practices in applied technology, industry, archaeometry, and geology.

WEBSITE

www.carr-trebelhorn.com

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) – History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, 2014- 2023

Faculty of History, University of Oxford, Oxford, England.

Granted leave to supplicate (official completion of degree requirements) – December 2023; *Degree conferred* – November 2024

Thesis Title: *Alexandre Brongniart (1770-1847): Kinship, Natural History, and the Invention of Ceramic Science*

Master of Arts (MA) – Art History, Spring 2014

Department of Fine Art, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.

Thesis Title: *From Geology to Art History: Ceramist Alexandre Brongniart's Overlooked Contribution to the Developing Science of Art History in the Early Nineteenth Century*

Advanced Study – Materials Science and Engineering (Ceramic Engineering), Part-time, 2004-12 Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. (70 Semester Credit Hours Completed)

Research and Coursework in: Materials Thermodynamics, Polymer Science, Metallurgy, Crystallography, Ceramic Materials and Processing; Applied chemistry, materials analysis, and archaeometry

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) – Art Studio, May 1999, cum laude School for American Crafts, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY.

Major: Ceramics and Ceramic Sculpture
Minor Subjects: Craft Textiles & Fibers; Interior Design

Bachelor of Arts (BA) – English Literature, May 1992 Department of English, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.

Major: English Literature; Minor: Art History

CAREER SKILLS

Software and Technology Skills:

- Adobe: Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign; MS: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Teams; Apple: Pages, Numbers, Keynote; Open Office; LibreOffice. Apple, Chromebook, & Microsoft OS. Teams, Outlook, Zoom.
- Bibliographic software, including Zotero, EndNote, Mendeley, RefWorks (Oxford)
- PowerPoint presentation design skills
- Basic website set-up and management, Analytics, SEO
- Document and text editing for publication and print
- Handling long (book-length) documents in MS Word, Apple Pages, LibreOffice, OpenOffice, and other word processing software
- Calculations in Microsoft Excel; use of other graphing and calculation software; exporting raw data into Excel; creating tables and graphs
- XRF, XRD, SEM, Photometry, laboratory, and analysis skills
- Online course teaching aids
- JStor Stewardship Software; Metadata Development

Teaching Skills:

- Critical reading and discussion skills
- Analytical writing and editing
- Analysis of writing structure and language usage
- Teaching skills, classroom presentation skills, and proofreading & editing skills for academic and technical writing
- Methods for student assessment
- Instructional techniques
- Communication with diverse audiences, groups, and individuals in an international community

WORK HISTORY

CURRENT ROLE:

Program Coordinator, College of Engineering and Applied Science and Science Libraries – University of Cincinnati, July 2025-present

Responsibilities and Skills Developed:

- Conservation concerns and best practices for long-term care, storage, and consultation of document and photograph archives, special collections, rare books, digital archives, historical objects, ephemera, and material culture items
- Metadata creation and editing (JStor and other formats)
- Digital archive management; creation of a new historical photographic archive
- Creating, editing, and updating online resources and study guides
- Analysis of historical archive materials and recommendation for digitization and preservation
- Preparation of images, brochures, and presentations using PowerPoint, Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator and other graphics software
- Creation and curation of historical book and digital displays; short publications on themes in science, technology, engineering, and cultural history; course guides; information resources; and presentations
- Creation of annotated bibliographies for the Science and Engineering Libraries' rare books collections
- Historical research, provenance research; academic publication
- Grant writing, planning, & project development
- Collaborative inter-library and interdisciplinary projects
- Student supervision; project assistant supervision; and mentoring
- Patron services and operations (using Alma/Ex Libris)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Faculty, Studio Art & Art History – Saint Catherine's College, Springfield, KY. Academic Year 2013-14

Taught Courses:

- Visual Studies (Art History), university level
- Visual Studies (Art History), advanced placement course (dual credit) at Bardstown High School, Bardstown, KY
- Color Theory (Art Studio), university level

Graduate Teaching Assistant – Department of Art History, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Academic Years 2010-11 & 2011-12

Taught and/or Supported Courses:

- Visual Studies
- Ancient to Medieval Art
- Renaissance to Modern Art

Archive & Museum Management and Research Skills:

- Primary and secondary documentary resource analysis
- Visual analysis, description, and interpretation
- Archival preservation theory and practice
- Historical writing and editing
- Handling methods for rare books and historical documents in archival and non-archival settings; handling of museum objects; proper documentation of scientific and museum objects
- Handling of two-dimensional and three-dimensional artworks, including works on paper, fabrics, metals, ceramics, and oil and acrylic paintings
- Research database skills, including libraries, archives, museums, and other resources
- Visual presentation skills, public speaking, written presentation skills
- Editing images and graphs for publication
- Use of historical maps and known address information to create network studies and map illustrations
- Analysis of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century map information and imaging styles
- Bibliographic referencing styles, citation formatting, and proofreading
- French and Italian primary research, and foreign language textual analysis
- Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century handwriting analysis
- Project management and budgeting
- Event Planning

NON-TEACHING EMPLOYMENT:

Cruise Boat Historian and Speaker, Lewis and Clark Themed Cruise on the Snake and Columbia Rivers, American Cruise Lines, 17-31 May 2025

During a one-week cruise, presented four one-hour historical lectures with PowerPoint slides on the subject of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery Expedition. These were both historically accurate and meant to entertain a broad general audience. For each one-week cruise, presented five fifteen-minute talks on each port. Developed an additional one-hour lecture on the geology of the region, which includes landscapes developed both by volcanic action and by Ice Age floods (known as the Bretz floods). As guest speaker, I was a representative of the cruise line during the cruises. I also acted as tour guide, back-up to the organization of tour travel, and was available for questions and conversation at all times while in public spaces.

Geologic Archive Technician – Kentucky Geological Survey, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. November 2023-November 2024. One-year, grant-funded position

Responsibilities and Skills Developed:

- Archival preservation skills
- Conservation and best practices for long-term care, storage, and consultation of complex earthen materials, such as geological cores
- Archival cataloguing methods
- Practical knowledge and familiarity with testing methods in the geological sciences
- Knowledge of the relationship of geological core samples with the original sites, and the typical regional geology and stratigraphy
- Recognizing common constituent materials in geological core samples, such as limestone, shale, or calcite
- Organizational skills and implementation of efficient, independent working methods

Museum Collections Assistant – The University of Kentucky Museum of Anthropology. Part-time, 2006-10

Responsibilities and Skills Developed:

- Archival collections management
- Preservation of photography archives and anthropological collections
- Museum records management and filing systems
- Assisting visiting researchers with access to the study collections
- Limited supervision and training of other collections management student workers

Showroom Design Consultant and Customer Service – Mees Tile and Marble. Lexington, KY. Part-time, 2003-05

Museum Operations Manager; Member Services

Coordinator/Receptionist – The Headley-Whitney Decorative Arts Museum. Lexington, KY. June 2002-June 2003 (Promoted to Operations Manager in January 2003)

Responsibilities and Skills Developed:

- Member services, visitor experience, communication, and recruiting
- Newsletter creation, editing, and printing
- Creation of content and images for postcards, event mailers, museum brochures, the docent tour handbook, and information sheets

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Ceramic Society

American Historical Association

British Society for the History of Science

College Art Association

European Society for the History of Science

French Porcelain Society

Geological Society of Kentucky

History of Science Society

Kentucky Paleontological Society

National Coalition of Independent Scholars

Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

Society for the History of Natural History

The Lexington (KY) Francophones

LANGUAGES

French – fluent, professional working capacity

Italian – fluent, professional working capacity

German – reading knowledge, hospitality knowledge (2 terms university coursework)

Chinese (Mandarin) – hospitality knowledge, some Pinyin and character knowledge (2 semesters university coursework; 6 Semester CH study abroad in Shanghai)

- Compiling the many local stories related to the history of the museum, its site, and its collections for use in presentations and museum tours
- Gift shop retail management, including staff supervision, merchandising, and financial oversight
- Event organization and promotion of museum-sponsored events, such as membership dinners, special events, exhibition receptions, and museum lectures
- Presentation, sales, and management of facilities rentals for weddings and private events
- Coordination and liaison between the curatorial, educational, events, facilities, and membership teams
- Organizational support for business meetings
- Facilities management and oversight of the care, maintenance, and security of the fifteen-acre museum grounds and its twelve buildings, as well as its archives, exhibition spaces, private spaces, and permanent collections; operations staff supervision
- Curatorial-focused roles such as public engagement, tour content creation, tour presentations, docent training, and supervision
- Writing museum correspondence to a diverse population including members and local and international visitors, as well as thank you notes to museum members and to the Headley-Whitney board members
- Writing and presenting reports for the museum board and for the Derby Brunch Event fundraising committees
- Logistical support for the annual Derby Brunch fundraising event, a museum-hosted catered brunch for 150 guests
- Communication with non-native speakers of English and international visitors
- Communication with the museum board members, patrons, and donors
- Liaising with museum contractors and service providers

Independent Exhibiting Artist (Ceramics, Painting, Sculpture, Fiber Arts)
– Autumn 1999-August 2010, active; Part-time since 2010

Responsibilities and Skills Developed:

- Small business management skills
- Cooperative organization of several group exhibitions
- Studio management skills and equipment maintenance
- Slide creation, photography, and documentation skills
- Preparation of exhibition applications and promotional materials
- Retail and customer service skills; festival booth development and management
- Exhibit construction and preparation

English Conversation Assistant/Instructor and Personal Assistant
to Professor Fang Lili (China National Academy of Art & Visiting Scholar at the University of KY), Part-time, Academic Years, 2009-11

Graphic Artist – *The Georgetown News-Graphic*, Georgetown, KY. August 1999-July 2000

Responsibilities and Skills Developed:

- Advertising design, newspaper pre-print setup, graphic design
- Quark Xpress, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator
- Color matching from sample mock-ups to print and RGB color to CMYK color
- Editing and proofreading to match given advertising copy

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Volunteer and Committee Member, Volunteer Liaison to Cincinnati Preservation – (OLLI) Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio. Since Autumn, 2025.

French Language Group Coordinator – Spring 2021-Spring 2025, The Lexington Francophones, A Weekly Conversation Group Meetup for the purpose of French conversation.

Our group, which I coordinated for four years, has hosted a local and international group of Francophones and beginning French conversationalists since 2010. During my tenure, I brought the group back from the low numbers of the post-pandemic period and restored it to an active group of 20-30 regular weekly attendees. I have been an active member since 2011. I created a limited-circulation blog to address the specific needs and interests of the Lexington Francophones community, but with a general focus on language learning and Francophone cultures. This blog served as a promotional tool for introducing new members to the group. This Lexington-based group has formed a key part of a vibrant community of language learners and international guests that serves as a contact point and collaborative exchange with other local, Kentucky language and cultural groups. It consistently draws members and guests from across Kentucky and the region.

Vice Chairperson – St Cross College Ball Committee, 50th Anniversary Ball, 2015-2016; St Cross College, University of Oxford. (Event held June 2016)

Curator and Co-Chair – Italian Film Festival, University of KY, Academic Years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008

INTERNATIONAL STUDY/CONTINUING EDUCATION

Digital Curation Certificate, Ohiolink, Member of the Statewide Ohio Cohort of the Library Juice Academy Program for Digital Curation, January-August 2026

Ohionet Student Success Summit Workshop, Columbus, Ohio, 6 June 2026

SWON Libraries Consortium Workshop, Read the Room: Next Level Customer Service for Library Professionals, 11 August 2026, State of Ohio

Study Abroad in China, May-June 2011, Shanghai, China
Shanghai University and the University of KY

- Chinese Culture and Language (6 Semester CH); Coursework in both English and Chinese; Chinese Immersion Program

Maiolica Decoration, Summer 2008, Deruta, Italy
Scuola d'Arte Ceramica "Romano Ranieri"

- Course in Ceramic Decoration with Maestro Romano Ranieri, including the creation of a series of three journeyman's pieces in traditional Maiolica decoration (40 hours of classroom study); Most coursework in Italian as well as in the local dialect of Deruta

PUBLICATIONS

Alexandre Brongniart (1770-1847): Kinship, Natural History, and the Invention of Ceramic Science. PhD thesis, University of Oxford. 2023.

Online at: <https://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid:18263d5c-3d79-4fe4-ad49-4b833f7c215d>

From Geology to Art History: Ceramist Alexandre Brongniart's Overlooked Contribution to the Developing Science of Art History in the Early Nineteenth Century. MA Thesis, University of Kentucky. March 2014. Online at https://uknowledge.uky.edu/art_etds/4/

PRE-PRINTS

Carr-Trebelhorn, Julia and O'Malley, Nancy. *Archaeometric Study of Kentucky Redware and Bricks at the 1820s Historic Ingels Family Bourbon County Farm and Pottery Site*, 2013. Pre-print on UC Scholar. <https://scholar.uc.edu/show/rn3012858>

Carr-Trebelhorn, Julia. *Alexandre Brongniart and the Arts of the Earth: Coining "La Céramique"*, 2026. Pre-print on UC Scholar. <https://scholar.uc.edu/show/sj1393708>

Carr-Trebelhorn, Julia. *After Brongniart: Defining the Word "Ceramic" and the Persistence of "Burnt Stuff"*, 2026. Pre-print on UC Scholar. <https://scholar.uc.edu/show/pk02cc35d>

SELECTED PAPERS AND TALKS

Brongniart, Cuvier, and Geoffroy: Rivalry, Friendship, and Debate in Early-Nineteenth-Century Natural History, History of Science Society/European Society for the History of Science Joint Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, 12-16 July 2026; (presented in absentia).

Burning Diamonds: Lavoisier, Guettard, and the 1771 Development of Reduction Firing and Hard-Paste Porcelain at Sèvres, Remembering William "Bill" Brock: Chemistry and Culture Conference, Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) Spring Meeting, Maison Française, Oxford, University of Oxford, Oxford, England, 10 April 2026.

The Missing Etymological Record: The Nineteenth-Century Invention of "Ceramics" and Twentieth-Century Controversy; History of Science Society Annual Meeting, 14 November 2025, New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Robert Peter (1805-1894): Understanding Nineteenth-Century Kentucky through Chemistry and Mineralogy – Farmland, Clays, Mineral Waters, Poisons, and Bourbon; Poster Presentation, Kentucky Geological Survey (KGS) Annual Seminar, 15 May 2024.

On Ancient Seas: Alexandre Brongniart (1770-1847) and the Terrains of Paris; presented at the Kentucky Geological Survey (KGS) Bi-monthly Internal Seminar, 22 March 2024; Kentucky Paleontological Society, 31 May 24. Online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9yhNUNBuPU>

Vital Networks and Fulfilled Expectations: Tracing Alexandre Brongniart's Path to the Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory (1770-1800); presented at the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry Conference, Maison Française, Oxford. October 2016.

Miscible Media: Integration of Natural History and the Arts in the Work of Alexandre Brongniart; presented at the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry Conference, Maison Française, Oxford. June 2016.

From Geology to Art History: Alexandre Brongniart's Unexpected Contribution (Project summary for a dissertation on the life of Alexandre Brongniart); presented at the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry Conference, Maison Française, Oxford. May 2015.

Natural Intersections: The Career of Alexandre Brongniart in Context; presented at the Symposium for the History of Science, Medicine and Technology, History Faculty, Oxford. May 2015.

The Parabiago Patera: Evidence in Review; Presented at the 2011 Byzantine Studies Conference (BSANA); Loyola University, Chicago, IL. October 2011.

Sailing into Being: The Importance of Porcelain in Dutch Identity; Imported Asian Porcelain as a Marker of Dutch Identity; Presented at the 2011 University of Iowa Art History Symposium; Iowa City, IA. January 2011.

Featured Artist, Carr, Julia. "Tiled Cat Wild." *Wildcat Madness: An Artistic Tribute to the Kentucky Wildcat*. Lexington, KY: Host Communications, 2001. Handmade ceramic tile design for a prefabricated wildcat sculpture frame. Book featuring winners of a juried exhibition contest.

Special Research Paper (Unpublished): Material Analysis of the Early Nineteenth Century Kentucky Redware and Local Soils of the Ingels Farm Pottery of Bourbon County, University of Kentucky Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, 2013. (Some information added to the poster presentation, *Dr. Robert Peter (1805-1894)*, for KGS Annual Seminar, 15 May 2024). (See also the pre-print, above.)

Independent research project in nineteenth-century Kentucky redware pottery and brick making. This study correlates scientific analysis of clay samples drawn from the probable location of an early nineteenth-century clay mine/source with

archaeological samples of redware clay pottery from the associated pottery and brick making site nearby. Supervised by Dr. Rich Eitel, UK MSE, and Nancy O'Malley, Assistant Director, William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology. Work completed in coordination with Steve Jacobs, Soil Scientist (National Resources Conservation Services); Bill Sharp, Archaeologist and Cultural Resource Specialist (National Resources Conservation Services); the Kentucky Geological Survey Laboratory; and the University of Kentucky Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Regular contributions to the Lexington Women Artists' Group (WAG) Members' Exhibitions, Lexington, KY, 2003-2010.

Juried Exhibitor, numerous arts festivals, KY, TN, MN, NY, 1995-2010.

Juried Member, Artists' Attic Studio Group, Lexington, KY, 1999-2001.

BFA Solo Exhibition, May 1999, School for American Crafts, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY.

BFA Group Exhibition, May 1999, Mill Gallery, Honeoye Falls, NY.

School for American Crafts Honors Invitational Exhibition, Summer 1999. Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY.