



Private Collections: Another Side of Collection Management

Thursday, November 20
Time: 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Session Description

Private collections are often overlooked in traditional museum circles, yet they represent a rapidly expanding and essential sector of collection management. This roundtable discussion, led by experienced professionals from the private collections world, offers registrars and collections managers a unique opportunity to explore this lesser-known domain.

Our panelists will share insights into managing family, personal, and corporate collections, highlighting both the similarities and key differences from institutional museum work. From collaborating directly with private owners to navigating challenges without the framework of museum governance, the discussion will explore how collection care, documentation, and conservation are adapted outside of traditional settings.

Whether addressing the demands of a private estate or a corporate collection, the fundamental goal remains the same: preserving and protecting cultural heritage. This session will shed light on the distinct workflows, expectations, and opportunities present in private collections, while reaffirming the shared professional values at the heart of our field.

Join us for a thought-provoking conversation that broadens the scope of what it means to be a collections professional today.

Kali Mercy, Curator of Perot Family Collections

- Private collection created by Ross Perot Sr. (1930-2019).
- The collection consists of 12,000 objects.
- I am the only collections/museum employee.
- The collection grows via family members.



How Did I Get Here?

- Hired in June 2021.
- Previously worked at Vanderbilt University Art Museum.
- The opportunity arose through my network.
- Registrar/Collection Manager jobs outside of museums do exist!

Kali Mercy

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Maura Kehoe Collins, Artiphile Founder & Principal

Independent Collections Management Services

- Est. 1991
- Have worked for over ~30 collections to date, wide range of collecting areas, size and value
- Unsalariated; hourly, sometimes project based compensation

What I do

- According to client objectives > typically starts with documentation review, registration, CMS, inventory, photography and condition survey
- Collate + report upon findings > develop a collection management plan under a new contract
- Can take years to complete and may encompass: appraisal, insurance review, conservation + re-framing/mounts and housing, research to complete the catalogue (raisonné/expertise applications), environmental (monitor/amend), manage loan requests,, strategy and succession planning ...

How did I get here

- HS Internship at Boston MFA
- Continued at college art museum – curatorial asst > acting registrar initiated project to computerize records.
- Senior January Term > MET Far Eastern Art led to CV Starr Fellowship
- Kress Fellowship at British Museum- discovered my predilection for preventative conservation vs. repair
- Left BM + the field > worked for an art advisor in NYC where I was introduced to the world of private collections
- ...
- Began cataloguing, appraising, advising on installations + conservation and found my calling.

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Nicole Moffatt, Director of Private Collections (Family Office)

- 2 Private Collections (Family)
- Collections consists of 2,000 objects (primary category art but also manage design, antiquities, luxury, other)
- I am the only collections/museum employee

What I do

- Manage day to day operations across 10 properties and 2 boats
- Oversee Database/s management
- Accession and Deaccession
- Research

How did I get here

- Started at an art advisory; Christie's (NY and LA) for 8 years; in-house advisory for an Interior Designer
- Came home to Las Vegas in 2022 to take this role

Nicole Moffatt

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Passion & Stewardship

Passion and Stewardship/Loans

Warhol x Basquiat
Brant Foundation



Damien Hirst
Jumex



Strike Fast, Dance Lightly
Norton Museum

What I Do

- Manage the databases.
- Care for a 10,000 sq ft museum.
- Private tours.
- Research.
- Care for the collection/archive.
- Advise as needed.



What the Perot Collection Does

- Preserves the legacy of Ross Perot Sr. & family.
- Lends objects.
- Supports academic research.

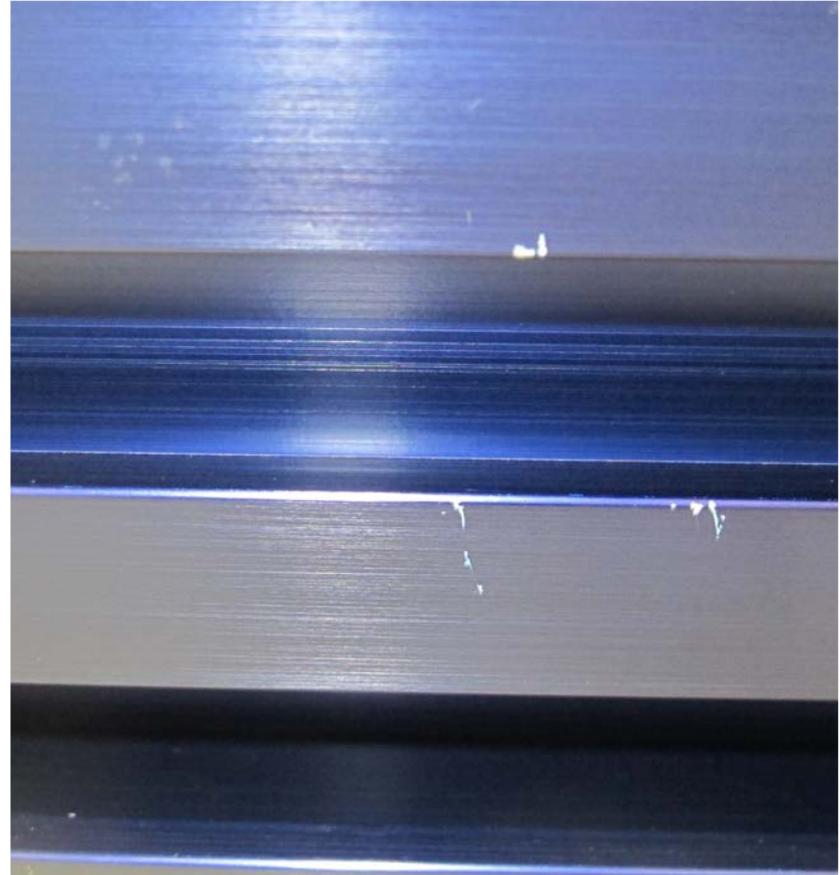
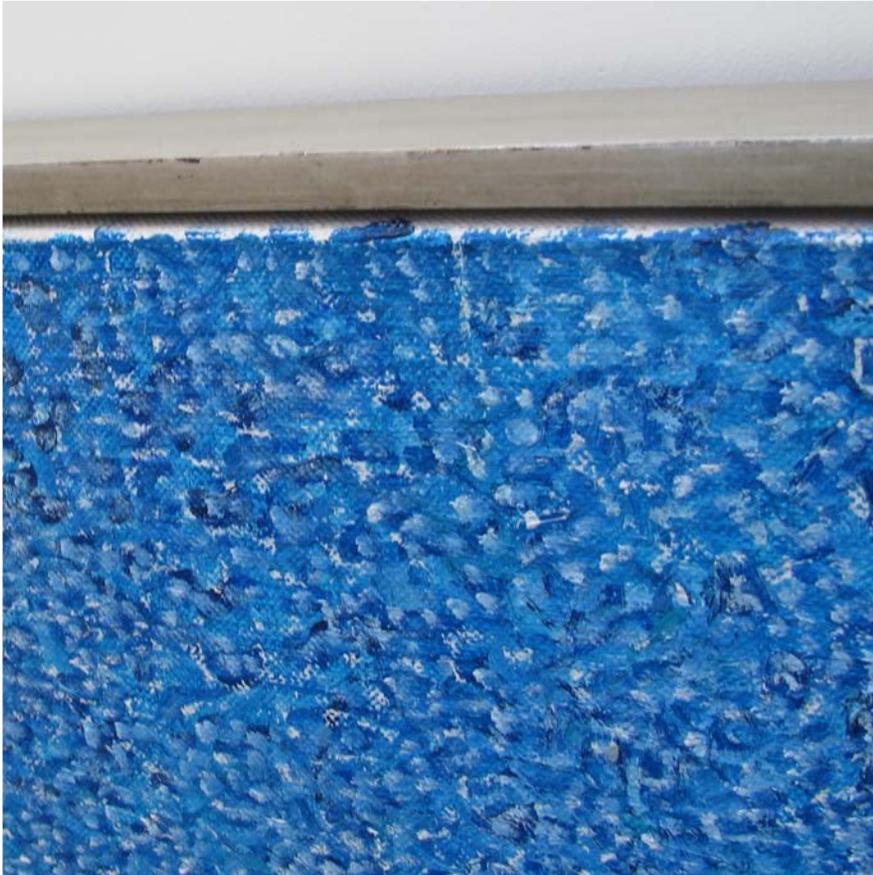


Insurance & Risk Management

LIVING WITH ART - What Clients Can't See



LIVING WITH ART - What Clients Can't See ... con'd



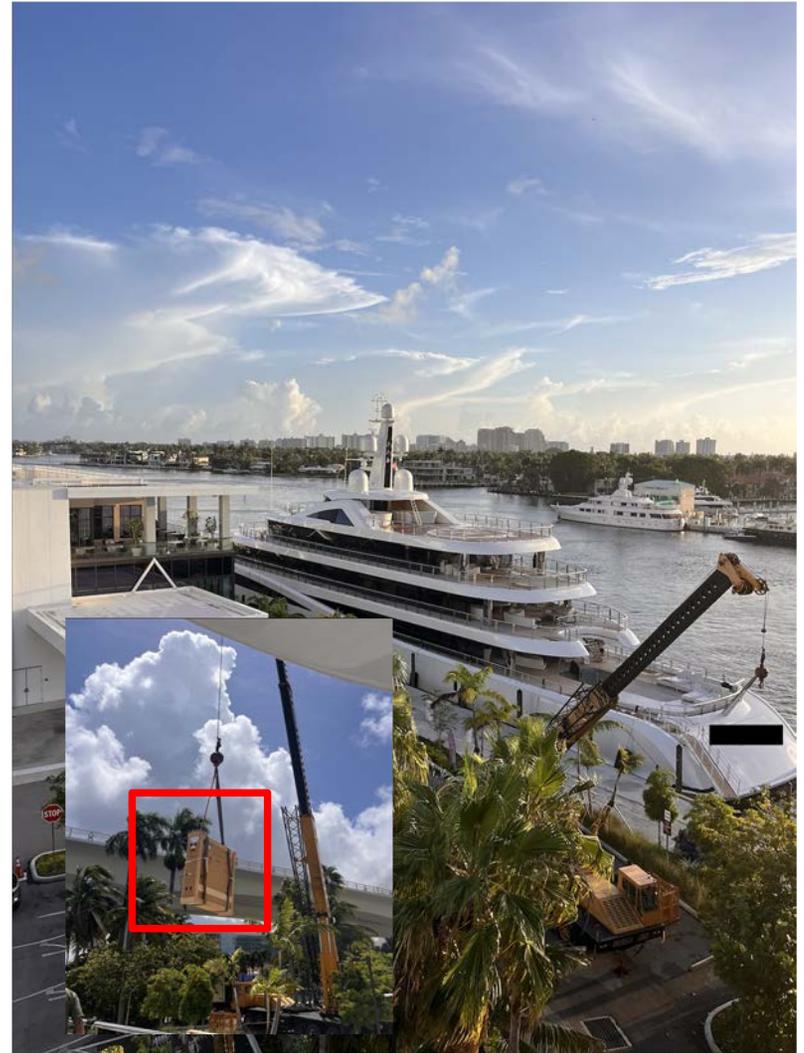
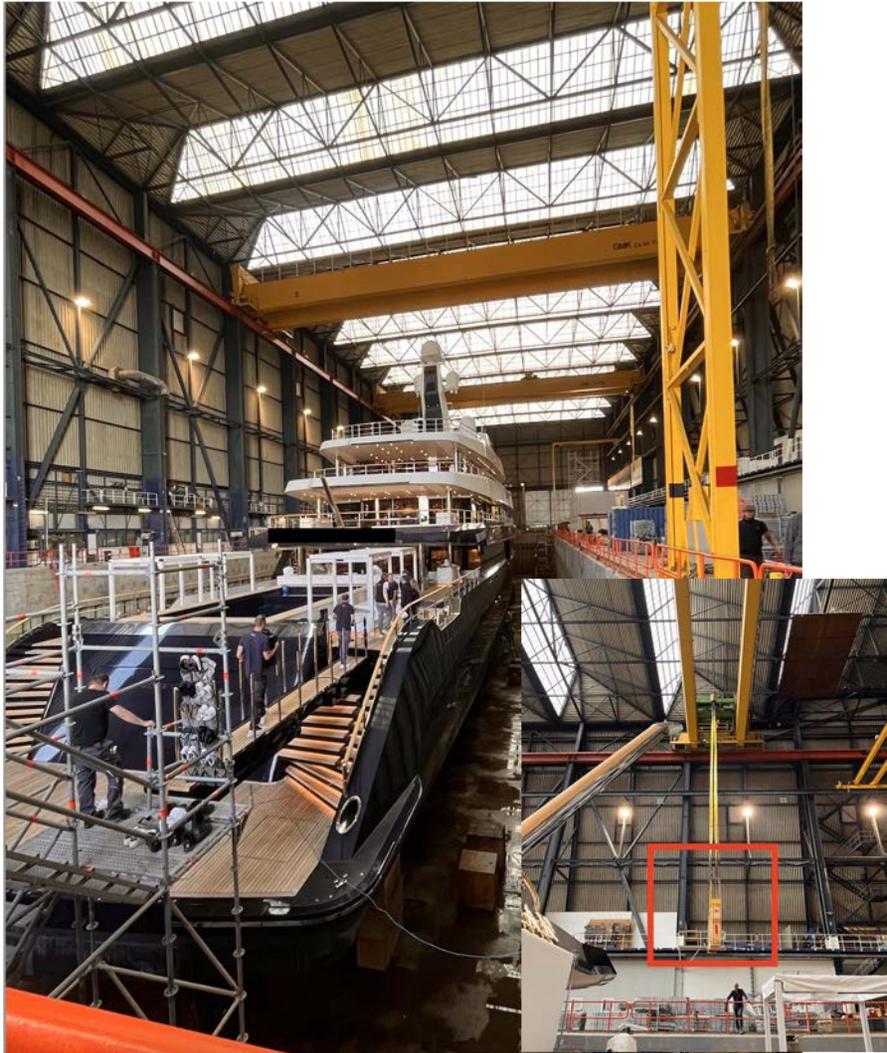
Logistics

Shipping objects in different places!



Environments

Yachts/Large Sea Vessels



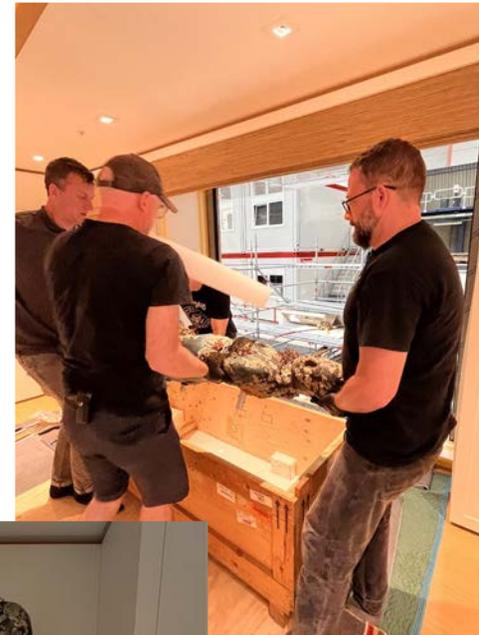
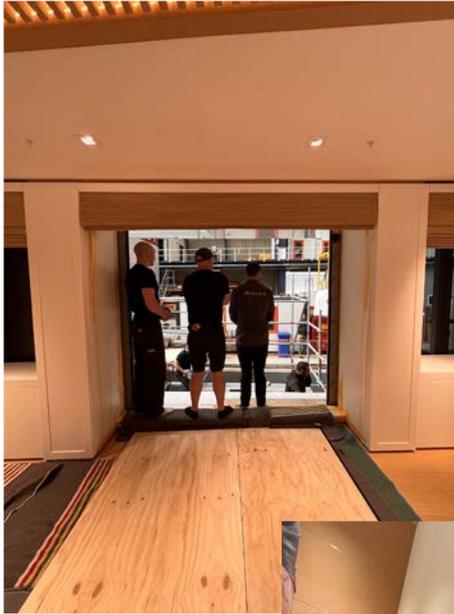
Challenges

Yachts/Large Sea Vessels



Installs

Yachts/Large Sea Vessels



Conservation/Specialty



Yachts/Large Sea Vessels



Bespoke Storage



Yachts/Large Sea Vessels



Museum standard storage for collection



Generalist or Specialist

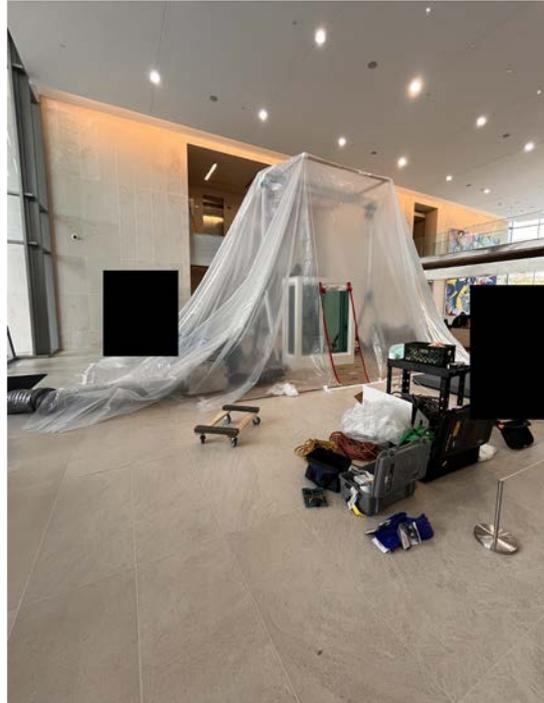
ONSITE CONSERVATION in PRIVATE HOMES



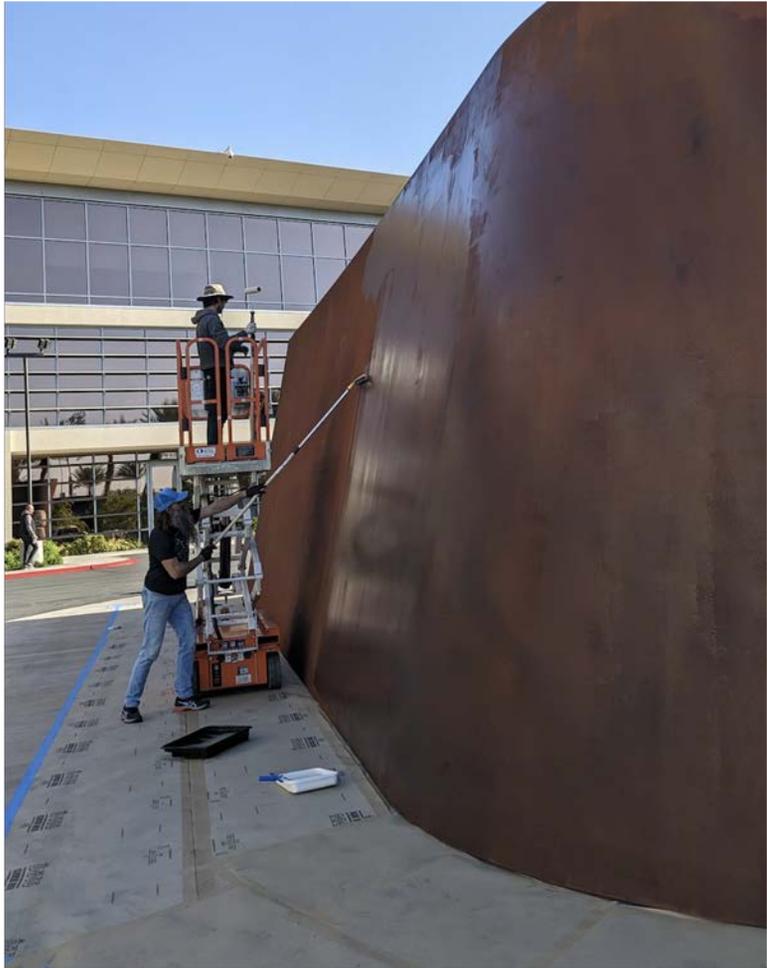
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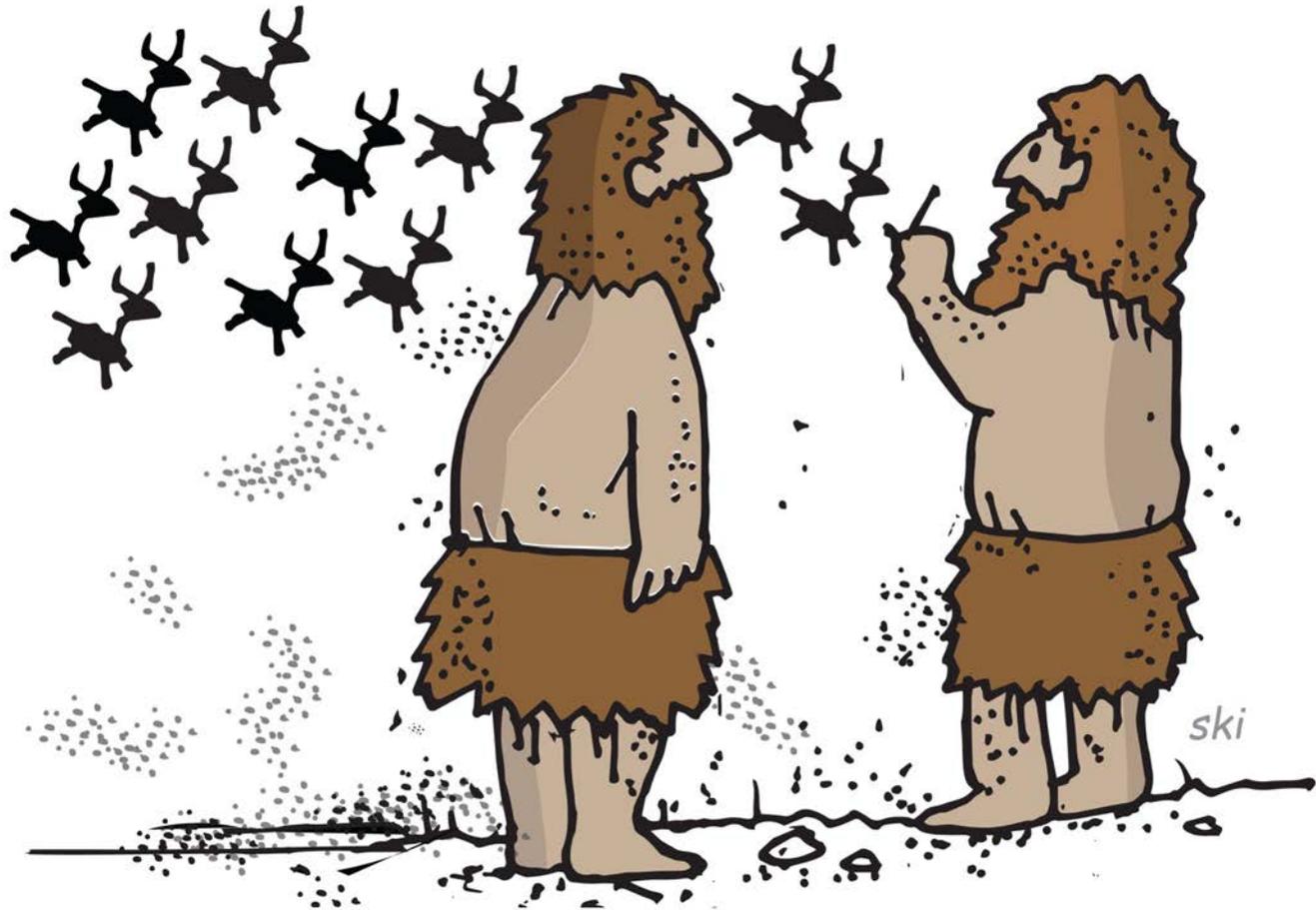
Collaboration/Installation



Collaboration/Conservation



CMS and Taking the Leap



*Why? Because without documentation,
this would be lost to history.*