

**Sarah Spafford-Ricci, BSc Hec, M.A.C.**

***Principal Conservator of Fine Art***

Sarah has a Master of Art Conservation from Queen's University, Kingston ON, and a Bachelor of Science from University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. She has worked in the conservation labs of the National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa), the MacKenzie Art Gallery and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (both in Regina, SK), the Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto, ON) and the Glenbow Museum (Calgary, AB). Ms. Spafford-Ricci co-founded Fraser Spafford Ricci Art & Archival Conservation Inc and has been its Principal Conservator since 1997.

Sarah has been on the Executive of the Canadian Association of Conservators (CAC) and was the British Columbia representative for CAC for 16 years. She has experience in conservation at the community level, having sat on the Board of the Saskatchewan Museums Association where she assisted with museum and conservation policies and programs for both small and large museums in the province of Saskatchewan, Canada. She also was a conservator in Saskatchewan's Conservation Extension Service over a 10 year period, teaching workshops on collections care and conservation, advising the community on preservation of collections and assisting in conservation improvements for provincially important objects. Sarah has also worked at a federal level, on peer juries for Govt of Canada Canadian Heritage conservation grants, the Canadian Archives Association grants, various public art review committees and juries to review/approve applications to the Canadian Association of Professional Conservators. In 2010, Sarah received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal for outstanding work in Heritage Conservation. In 2017, she was chosen as keynote speaker for the Canadian Conservators Annual Conference, delivering the Per Guldbeck memorial lecture, providing insights on art conservation in private practice.

Sarah's contributions over three decades include over 50 articles and lectures to artists, conservators, and museum/gallery custodians on preservation and conservation. With a deep knowledge of best practice in preservation and conservation, she was the conservation consultant for both the Alberta and Saskatchewan museum standards documents in their first publishing. Sarah has taught numerous workshops on collections care, care of mixed collections and museum/gallery storage of collections, including a recent workshop on collection storage with the British Columbia Museums Association. With Emily Min-Mander, Sarah co-authored appendices on the storage of traditional and non-traditional paintings for the 2019 book, [Preventive Conservation: Collections Storage](#) by Elkin and Norris (published by SPNHC, AIC, Smithsonian Institution and George Washington University), and taught a workshop on the topic for museum custodians through the American Institute of Conservation in 2022.

For the Canadian Association of Conservators, she authored a paper documenting FSR's examination, condition and conservation survey of over 6,000 artworks in the permanent collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery. Sarah Spafford-Ricci and Tara L. Fraser then presented a lecture on conservation surveys and assessments to conservators at the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa.

Ms. Spafford-Ricci has also given workshops and papers on the care and conservation of public art, including a lecture at the Canadian Association of Conservators annual conference. She has worked with several municipalities in collection surveys, and policy and program development in conservation and maintenance of public art. She has also lectured and delivered workshops on the production of lasting art to artists and artist associations, including at an annual conference of Canadian Artists Representation / Le Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC).

Several of Sarah's her most impactful papers and talks have involved response and recovery after a disaster. She authored a pair of articles for the International Council of Museums and the American Institute for Conservation and an article for the Society of Preservation of Natural History Collections documenting the

protocols and procedures used in the salvage, response and recovery of collections from a massive 1991 museum fire at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. She also co-authored papers on response and recovery for the book HELP! A Survivor's Guide to Emergency Preparedness, by Museums Alberta. She has been involved as a workshop instructor for many emergency response workshops for cultural institutions.

Sarah's education and experience as a generalist conservator combined with years of experience in preventive and treatment conservation have given her an unparalleled understanding of deterioration and risk, preservation and conservation of historic material and fine art.