



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0002

Object: [Bust length portrait of a woman]

Object Date: 1879-1886

Artist/Author: William Getz, 42 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD

Materials: Albumen Cabinet Card

Owner: University of Delaware Museums: "The Baltimore Collection"

Permanent Location: UD Museums Collections

Reason for Treatment or Examination: Examined as part of the photograph conservation block documentation project and aimed to add to the curatorial and conservation body of knowledge

Examined by: Bellie Fichtner, Art Conservation BA 2019

Report Date: January 8, 2018

DESCRIPTION

This is an albumen portrait of a woman wearing a dark dress with white collar and jabot. Her hair is pulled back in a bun. The print is on a cabinet card mount.

CONDITION

The print measures 10.3 cm wide by 15 cm in length. The mount measures 10.8 cm wide by 16.5 cm in length. These measurements differ slightly from the current Artstor database record.

The photograph and its mount are in poor condition. Both are generally yellowed and covered in surface grime. They show severe signs of water damage and subsequent mold growth. The support, a cabinet card with decorative bronze powder at the outer edges, has become delaminated. This is particularly severe on the right side, where the six individual layers of the mount are completely detached. On this side, the bronze powder is partially lost. The card is yellowed, with bronze powder lettering on the bottom left and right. These elements are in tact. The verso has purple mold staining and heavy surface grime on the edges. It also has six splattered dark brown surface stains.

The photograph, which was adhered to the mount most likely using water-soluble wheat starch paste, is detached on three sides. The albumen binder layer has a slight gloss and overall crazing. It is mold damaged, with purple staining and small black accretions especially on the right side. The black accretions are primarily present in the background, but do extend into the sitter's face. A large one is located directly below the left ear. There are a number of reddish-brown surface stains across the photograph's surface, as well as a small red-pink stain directly above the woman's head. The silver image has a purple, brown tone and exhibits slight fading. There is spot-wise deterioration, possibly due to the presence of bronze powder, in the darks of the woman's dress and hair.

TREATMENT

1. Documented recto and verso.
2. Surface cleaned recto and verso using a soft brush and cosmetic sponges.
3. Tested both water and an enzymatic cleaning solution on cotton swabs for surface cleaning.

4. Surface cleaned entire photograph using water on cotton swabs.
5. Using a scalpel, removed dark surface accretion located on the left side of the sitter's face.
6. Documented and photographed after treatment.
7. Rehoused in standard sized polyester sleeve.