



Winterthur/University of Delaware  
Program in Art Conservation  
Conservation Report



**Accession #:** 2001.0017.0018

**Object:** [Portrait of an unidentified woman]

**Object Date:** 1870-1890

**Artist/Author:** Blessing & Kuhn, No. 46 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland

**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:** Yan Ling Choi, WUDPAC 2020

**Report Date:** January 15, 2018

## DESCRIPTION

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The object is albumen print of a woman portrait wearing a dark bodice posing behind a balustrade.

## CONDITION

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The photograph measures 10.3 cm wide by 14.3 cm in length. The secondary support measures 10.7 x 16.5 cm. (This differs slightly from the database.)

The photolytic silver image is in fair, stable condition. It has faded overall, especially along the outer edges. Localized fading is visible throughout the photograph, especially in the high dense areas. This deterioration may have been caused by contact with the bronze powder used for edge decoration. The albumen binder is generally yellowed throughout, with crazing visible under raking light. There is a moderate amount of grime and dust accumulated on the surface.

The adhesive used for attaching the photograph to the mount has failed at the outer edges. The detached area of the photograph exhibits purple staining and what appears to be inactive black mold. The verso of the mount also exhibits staining associated with mold. The paper mount is delaminated into layers around the outer edges.

## TREATMENT

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The rust particles from the iron support cause staining on the window mat and the pressure sensitive tapes on verso. The window mat on recto is delaminated and completely detached into two pieces.