Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report

Accession #: 2001.0017.0026
Object: [Portrait of an Unidentified Woman]
Object Date: 1860-1870
Artist/Creator: Egbert G. Fowx Photography Studio, 1 Gay Street, Baltimore, MD)
Materials: Tintype photographic print
Owner: University of Delaware Museums: "The Baltimore Collection"
Permanent Location: UD Museums Collections
Reason for Treatment or Examination: Examined as part of the photo block documentation
project with aims to add to the curatorial and conservation body of knowledge
Examined by: Tracy Liu, WUDPAC 2020
Report Date: 17 January 2018

Size:
  Image (oval): 4.4 x 5.9 cm (1.75 x 2.31 in) for longest and widest parts
  Mount (rectangular): 9.8 x 6 cm (3.87 x 2.37 in)

Description: Cabinet card format hand-tinted tintype portrait of a woman showing three-quarters view of the bust; presented in a cameo window cut out from an off-white toned mount.

Condition Overview: The photograph is generally in good condition – it is structurally sound (no complete losses or eminent risk of future loss) and is stable to transportation and routine handling. There are relatively few condition issues with this print. Its main concern is some slight bubbling and lifting present in the upper right hand quadrant of the image that was likely caused by water damage. When viewing from the reverse, a small section of exposed iron plate appears rusted.

The mount is in fair condition – water damage has left obvious tidelines in the upper left-hand corner and dark stains on the right side. Brown colored stains decorate the paper on the reverse side, presumably from oxidative reaction of the iron support of the tintype. This could also be a contributing factor to the presence of the aforementioned dark stains found on the right-hand side on the front of the mount.

Treatment Summary: Surface grime and dirt was removed with light tamping using a cosmetic sponge until sponge surface ceased to pick up grime.