



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0048

Object: [Seated Portrait of an Unidentified Woman in a Pinstriped Dress]

Object Date: 1870-1889

Artist/Creator: Unknown

Materials: Albumen 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: 9.0 x 5.5 cm (3.5 x 2.2 in)

Mount: 10.7 x 6.4 cm (4.2 x 2.5 in)

Description: Bust-length, three-quarter view un-mounted albumen print of a seated woman.

Condition Overview: The photograph is in fair condition – it is structurally sound (no complete losses or eminent risk of future loss) and is stable to transportation and routine handling. However, the photographic print has completely delaminated from its paper mount and is now curling when not sandwiched in a sleeve. The albumen has also yellowed significantly over time, as is typical for this material. Its main condition issue is slight purple staining in the albumen layer from mold damage in the upper left-hand quadrant of the photo. This mold growth does not appear to be active. Finally, the silver layer shows signs of mirroring in the darkest areas, primarily along the back of the sitter's hair, collar, and waist (visible only in raking light).

The mount is in fair condition – it has purple tidelines from mold infestation in the top left corner, a tear and wrinkling in the lower left corner, and is generally yellowed. The reverse side also shows purple tidelines from mold and two significant stains that appear to be from contact with grease/oil.

Treatment Summary: Surface grime and dirt was removed with light tamping using a cosmetic sponge until sponge surface ceased to pick up grime. Following dry surface cleaning, the print was wet cleaned using natural enzymes from saliva cleared with deionized water.