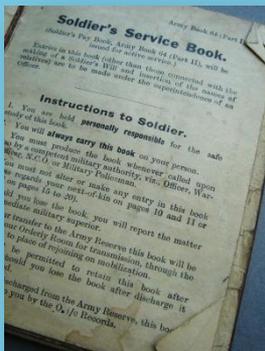


Do you have paintings that have been in your family for generations? Possibly you own letters or records which provide important information about your family history or maybe you just lost your heart to an auction item in need of repair?



Zoe Finlay paper conservation can conserve your much-loved paper items such as drawings, watercolours, letters, maps and book text blocks for your own enjoyment and for that of future generations. A free, no-obligation quote is provided and advice and information about your item and the treatment is discussed as much or as little as you wish.

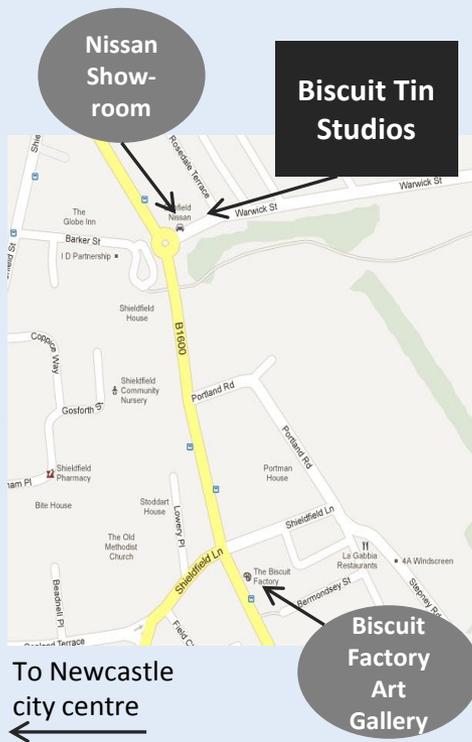
About Zoe Finlay

Zoe's conservation career began in 2006 with two years' training at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, England, through a joint initiative by ICON, (Institute of Conservation) and the HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund).

Since then, Zoe has undertaken numerous training placements at institutes including the British Library, (London), Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, (Edinburgh) and the Laing Art Gallery, (Newcastle).

In 2008, Zoe won a study scholarship and is now qualified to Masters' level in the conservation of fine art and other items on paper.

Location



Zoe Finlay Paper Conservation

Studio 16, Biscuit Tin Studios
Warwick Street
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE2 1BB

07906 334 002

zoe.finlay@gmail.com

www.zoefinlaypaperconservation.co.uk



Protecting your paper objects in the home

Zoe Finlay Paper Conservation

Paper Conservation

Paper conservation refers to the conservation of prints, maps, drawings, watercolours, manuscripts, letters and other diverse paper objects. A conservators' objectives are to:

- Repair a damaged object to extend its life and to improve its current and future chemical and physical stability.
- Improve an objects' appearance using sympathetic methods and materials which will help to preserve its history.
- Wherever possible, treatments should be reversible and cause no future harm to the object.
- The characteristic signs of ageing, historic and artistic expression must not be changed.

Storage and Display Guidelines

There are many simple measures that can be taken in the home that will help to protect and extend the life expectancy of your paper objects, be they watercolours, letters, prints...or even globes and toy boxes for collectors' items!

Of course it is understandable that not all of the following may be possible within a home environment. However, protection from the following causes of deterioration, (even if only managed on occasion), *will* help to reduce damage.

Light

Daylight and electric light are both damaging to paper and media. The more light, the faster the degradation of paper and media that will occur. Draw curtains and blinds whenever

possible and never hang pictures near windows.

Heat and cold

Never hang pictures near or above radiators or fireplaces. Try to avoid large fluctuations in rooms from very hot to cold and hot again. Reduce the temperature of nearby radiators. Temperatures of between 17°C to 20°C are recommended although these are not always comfortable for people.

Damp

Paper items are best kept in a cool, dry environment. Avoid hanging pictures on outside walls or storing paper items on cellar floors, in attics or beneath pipes. If a frame *must* be hung on an outside wall, a small piece of cork or foam (minimum 1cm thick) should be attached to each corner to allow airflow behind the frame. A relative humidity (RH) of between 50-55% is recommended.

Dust and insects

Ensure correct storage advice is followed (see below) and seal the back of frames with a gummed paper tape (preferably archival quality but ordinary tape is preferable to none). This will be a barrier to insects, dust and pollutants.

Storage and handling

Whenever possible, store objects in the dark, wrapped up in acid free tissue and in a lidded box, drawer or cupboard. Do not store on the floor in case of trip hazards, insects, flooding or damp. Do not use bubble wrap for long term storage of gilt frames unless there is a protective layer of acid free tissue as the imprint will remain on the frame.

For all framing and storage, try to use materials which are unbleached and free of wood and acid content. Always ensure you have clean hands before handling your paper items. Clean frame glass regularly with a soft soft cloth as dust also attracts mould spores, moisture and insects.

Home Treatments

It may be tempting, but home remedies should be avoided. These can often do more harm than good, even when they may appear to be beneficial in the short-term.

The following materials should be avoided:

- Wood pulp papers and card
- Wood, MDF, painted surfaces
- PVC plastic sleeves
- Paperclips, elastic bands, staples
- Post it notes, self adhesive labels and tapes
- Dry mount adhesives
- Bleaches
- Bread (for cleaning)

Seek professional advice whenever possible as the ageing and yellowing from these products is often difficult and sometimes irreversible

Useful links and advice

- **ICON** (Institute of Conservation)www.icon.org.uk
- **Northeast Document Conservation Centre**
www.nedcc.org/resources/family.php
- **The National Archives**
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/caring-for-your-records.htm