

CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN SOFT MATTER & POLYMERS

CRISP SEMINAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 9, 2023

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

366 COLBURN LAB



“Hydrogels in Art Conservation: Opportunities and Challenges”

What decisions govern the cleaning of irreplaceable cultural heritage surfaces, which can be unpredictable, geometrically complex, and physically and chemically delicate? This seminar will explore the rising use of hydrogels as a strategy for controlled delivery of aqueous solutions in conservation cleaning applications, from creative manipulation of agar and gellan gels to the recent advent of chemical hydrogels designed by scientists for use in the field of art conservation. Ongoing research at the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation focused on novel polysaccharide gel formulations will be highlighted along with open questions, challenges, and opportunities facing the subspecialty of conservation surface cleaning.

MATTHEW CUSHMAN

CONSERVATOR OF PAINTINGS & AFFILIATED
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

WINTERTHUR MUSEUM &
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Matthew Cushman is the Conservator of Paintings at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library and Affiliated Assistant Professor at the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation, where he leads coursework in paintings conservation and conservation cleaning applications. Internationally, Matt teaches cross-specialty cleaning workshops and consults on paintings conservation treatments, including Rembrandt's *The Night Watch* and Thomas Gainsborough's *Blue Boy*. In addition to numerous authored and co-authored articles and book chapters, Matt is the author of the forthcoming *Science for Conservators, Volume 2: Cleaning* (Routledge, 2024).

ZOOM OPTION:

<https://udel.zoom.us/j/96817104628>

<https://sites.udel.edu/udcrisp>

