

# Curriculum Vitae

Vera Tolstoj, 25-11-2018

## General Information

Name: Vera Tolstoj  
City: Amsterdam  
Birthdate: 04-06-1989  
Birthplace: St. Petersburg, Russia  
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## Education and workshops

<b>2018 (January- October)</b>	<b>Formative internship with The National Trust (region London-Southeast). Mainly working in the Conservation Studio of Knole House, Kent.</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>
<b>2016 - 2018</b>	<b>Post-Master Programme Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, specialisation Historic Interiors. University of Amsterdam.</b>	<b>Amsterdam</b>
<i>Subject MSc-thesis:</i>	<i>The role of the conservator in the decision making process around a restoration project and the choices for indoor climate</i>	
<b>2014-2016</b>	<b>Master Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, specialisation Historic Interiors, University of Amsterdam.</b>	<b>Amsterdam</b>
<i>Subject MA-thesis:</i>	<i>Architectural paint research to determine the original appearance of a plastered ceiling in an Amsterdam canal house from the eighteenth-century.</i>	
<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>Minor Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, University of Amsterdam.</b>	<b>Amsterdam</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>Minor Italian Linguistics and Literature, University of Amsterdam.</b>	<b>Amsterdam</b>
<b>2009 - 2014</b>	<b>BA Archaeology and Prehistory, University of Amsterdam.</b>	<b>Amsterdam</b>
<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>Foundation course (first year) Teachers Education in History, Windesheim University of Applied Sciences.</b>	<b>Zwolle</b>
<b>2000-2006</b>	<b>Gymnasium Celeanum, Ichthus College</b>	<b>Zwolle Kampen</b>

January 2018	“National Trust Housekeeping Study Days”, by several National Trust professionals	Wimpole Estate, Cambridgeshire, UK
November 2017	“PASMA Towers for Users Course”, training course for safety and construction of scaffold towers	Tonbridge, Kent, UK
June 2017	Workshop “Preventive Conservation & Risk Management”, by Bart Ankersmit and Agnes Brokerhof	Amsterdam
May-April 2017	Series of workshops: “Filling and Surface Imitation”; “Varnishing materials”; “Retouching materials”, by Kate Seymour	Amsterdam
December 2016	Workshop “Materials and methods for surface cleaning and removal of film-forming materials”, by Paolo Cremonesi.	Amsterdam
March 2016	Workshop “The Artist Interview”, on how to by Sanneke Stigter	Amsterdam
February 2016	Workshop “Mirrors and flat glass”, by Patricia Jackson	Amsterdam
January 2016	Workshop “The characteristics of leather”, by Elizabet Nijhoff Asser	Amsterdam
November 2015	Workshop “Japanese Paper Techniques”, by Andrew and Sydney Thompson-Thomson	Amsterdam
October 2015	Workshop “Gilding techniques”, by Sylvia Nijhuis	Amsterdam
May 2015	Workshop “Removal of overpaint in Historic Interiors”, by Willianne van der Sar	Amsterdam
February 2015	Workshop “Graining and marbling”, by Bernice Crijns	Amsterdam
January 2015	Workshop “Traditional House painting techniques”, by Leonieke Polman	Bussum
January 2015	Workshop “Traditional pigments and their use”, by Mariel Polman and Danielle van Kempen	Amsterdam
November 2014	Workshop “Glues and adhesives”, by Danielle van Kempen	Amsterdam
September 2014	Workshop “Basics in photography for Conservation and Restoration”, by Hans Meesters	Amsterdam
September 2014	Workshop “Handling chemicals/lab safety”, by Kate Seymour	Amsterdam
February 2012	Course “Roma Caput Mundi. World heritage in Rome”, Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome (KNIR).	Rome

## Projects

- 2013 - Present      Ambassador Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome (KNIR).  
<http://knir.it/nl/wiezijnwij/ambassadeurs.html>
- Description:      Representing the institute in the Netherlands through the organisation of conferences and events on the one hand, and on the other hand promoting the Institute at conferences and events through lectures and presentations. For instance:
- May 2016            “De Nacht van Rome” (The Night of Rome), a multidisciplinary conference, in cooperation with the KNIR and cultural centre De Balie Amsterdam.  
<http://www.nachtvanrome.nl/>
- Description:      Organisation of the event (together with a group of other Ambassadors of the KNIR): organising the conceptual/intellectual and cultural content.
- 2016 - Present      Editor and event manager of Roma Aeterna, a popular scientific magazine about historic and current issues in Rome.  
<https://www.romaaeterna.nl/page/homepage>.
- March - August 2014      Participant, interpreter and tour guide for project “Retour Zijderoute”. [http://www.hermitage.nl/nl/tentoonstellingen/expeditie\\_zijderoute/studentenproject.htm](http://www.hermitage.nl/nl/tentoonstellingen/expeditie_zijderoute/studentenproject.htm)
- Description:      As part of the exhibition “Expedition Silk Road” (February-September 2014) at the Hermitage Museum Amsterdam I was selected – together with five other international archaeology students - to participate in a research project in The Netherlands and in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kirgizstan). Several themes concerning the ancient Silk Road were investigated; my research focused on the historical spread of musical culture along the Silk Road. The results of this research project (articles, video footage and objects from our journey) were exhibited at the Hermitage Amsterdam and published on several websites. During the research trip I also acted as an interpreter (Russian-Dutch-English) and travel guide.
- 2013                    Secretary of Student Section Restauratoren Nederland (SRN), the Dutch professional association for conservators and restorers.
- Description:      Meeting minutes, keep up correspondence and organising events.
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## Research projects and field work

October 2018 **Huissen, The Netherlands:** Treatment aimed at regilding a withered early 20th century weathervane from a church in Huissen (The Netherlands).  
**Activities:** Gilding the object with 24k gold leaf; documentation; presentation of results to the client.



July 2018 **Cartoon Gallery, Knole House (National Trust), Kent:** assisting National Trust paintings conservator M. Cardwell with demounting and re-attaching painted 17th and 18th century wall hangings in the Cartoon Gallery in Knole House.  
**Activities:** Demounting the canvas paintings from their supports on the wall; carefully packing them for transport; re-attaching treated canvasses in their original location on the walls, using historic nails.



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June - October  
2018

**Conservation Studio Knole House (National Trust), Kent:** conservation of 43 17th century portraits on oak panels with decorative gilded frames from the collection of Knole House, a National Trust property in Kent.

**Activities:** Documentary research; documentation; surface cleaning; consolidation of heavily flaking decorative surface; stabilisation of decorative and structural elements; loss compensation.



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May - October  
2018

**Conservation Studio Knole House (National Trust), Kent:** conservation of the gilded surface of a stool commissioned by King James II in 1688, now part of the collection of the National Trust.

**Activities:** Documentary research; documentation; surface cleaning; consolidation of heavily flaking decorative surface; stabilisation of decorative and structural elements; loss compensation; regilding; patinating the surface.



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April 2018

**Several properties of the National Trust:** property visits with the regional conservator (S. Barrat) in the region London & Southeast.

**Activities:** shadowing the regional conservator in her work; attending meetings on conservation, management and progress at different properties; performing preventive conservation audits.

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March - April  
2018

**The Vyne (National Trust), Basingstoke, UK:** This Tudor mansion in Hampshire was undergoing a major roof renovation.

**Activities:** Assisting the project conservator at the construction site; assessing risks to moveable and immovable collection; working with the conservation team on the day to day collection care; installing a new storage space for the moveable collection.



March 2018

**London Office of The National Trust, Grosvenor Gardens, London:**

working at the London offices with the NT preventive conservation specialists.

**Activities:** attending several induction talks with National Trust specialists; processing blue wool dosimeters from all National Trust Properties; processing results in Microsoft Excell of a research on light doses conducted in Ickworth; assisted preventive conservation specialists in the conversion to a new system for climate data logging; attended meeting on environmental control in NT properties.

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February -  
March 2018

**Great Hall, Knole House (National Trust), Kent:** Preventive conservation and research of an 8 by 8 meter screen in the Great Hall at Knole House in Kent.

**Activities:** Documentary research; surface cleaning; research into the previous paint schemes of the object; writing treatment report.





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January -  
February 2018

**Knole House (National Trust), Kent:** Preventive conservation and day to day collection care in the showrooms and storerooms of Knole House.  
**Activities:** Housekeeping; cleaning the collection; dusting; waxing marble chimney pieces and wooden floors; making sure the showrooms are ready for the visitor season; taking regular environmental measurements.



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January - May  
2018

**Conservation Studio Knole House (National Trust), Kent, UK:** conservation of a Dutch ebony and rosewood veneered wardrobe (Kussenkast) that was found in a dilapidated state in over 60 large pieces (and many smaller fragments) in the attics of Knole House, Kent - a property of the National Trust.  
**Activities:** Documentary research; surface cleaning with aqueous gel; removal of old adhesive; stabilisation of loose elements; repair and reconstruction of damaged elements loss compensation of missing parts; reassembly for display; presentation of results; writing treatment report.



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September -  
december 2017

**Different historic houses in The Netherlands:** research focused on the role of the conservator in the decision making process surrounding a restoration project. This project was done in the context of a final research assignment (thesis).

**Supervisors:** B. Ankersmit (RCE), N. van der Woude (SRAL), M. Lantman (UvA)

**Activities:** Documentary research; collection inventory; valuing heritage assets; assessing risks to moveable and immoveable collection; condition check of climate installations; interviews with conservators; online survey; writing a thesis on this subject; presentation of results on a symposium.

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September  
2017

**Ateliergebouw UvA/Rijksmuseum/RCE, Amsterdam:** Research carried out on a overpainted panel (made from reused wood) which contains painted 17<sup>th</sup>-century parts of the ceiling of princess Amalia van Solms' bedchamber in Palace Huis ten Bosch (The Hague).

**Supervisors:** M. Lantman (University of Amsterdam), I. Verslype (Rijksmuseum)

**Activities:** Documentary research; IR-reflectography (OSIRIS camera); X-Ray photography; microscopic analysis of paint samples; uncovering 17th-century painting by removing modern paint layers; presentation of results on a symposium; writing treatment report.





July 2017

**Heeswijk Castle, Heeswijk-Dinther:** This project was aimed at devising an alternative for the castle's expensive and faulty climate installation. This project was carried out in collaboration with preventive conservation experts of the RCE.

**Supervisors:** B. Ankersmit (RCE) and M. Stappers (RCE)

**Activities:** Documentary research; collection inventory; valuing heritage assets; assessing risks to moveable and immovable collection; condition check of climate installations; presenting results.



June 2017

**MOCO-museum Amsterdam:** project carried out within the context of the workshop "Preventive Conservation & Risk Management" in the Amsterdam-based museum "MOCO"

**Supervisors:** B. Ankersmit (RCE) and A. Brokerhof (RCE)

**Activities:** Valuing heritage assets; assessing risks to moveable collection and building; presenting results to conservator/manager of the museum.



May-June  
2017

**De Nollen, Den Helder** Research aimed at (preventive) conservation of the artwork “Vergilius” (1992), two painted interiors in a bomb shelter in Den Helder, made by the artist R. van de Wint.

**Supervisors:** N. van der Woude (SRAL), M. Lantman (University of Amsterdam (UvA))

**Activities:** Cleaning of the painted surfaces with a specially modified aqueous cleaning gel (designed to remove dirt and mould); writing a report on conservation and treatment of the two spaces; draft a proposal for the preventive conservation (climate control) of the two rooms of the artwork.

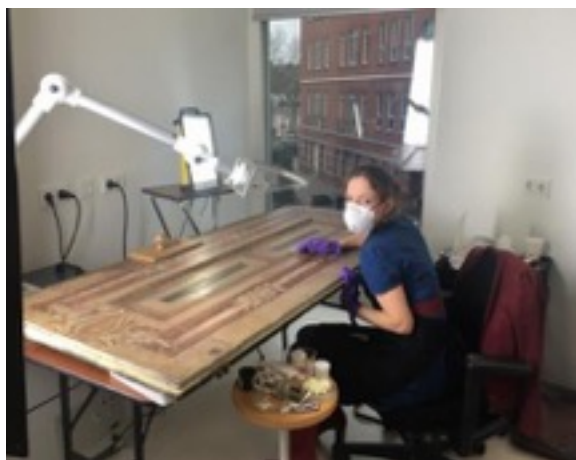


December  
2016 - Present

**Ateliergebouw UvA/Rijksmuseum/RCE, Amsterdam:** Restoration of a 17th-century painted door from a “hofje” (a Dutch courtyard with almshouses around it) in Haarlem.

**Supervisors:** M. Lantman (University of Amsterdam (UvA)) and N. van der Woude (SRAL, the leading restoration institute in The Netherlands)

**Activities:** Documentary research; stratigraphic paint research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; cleaning the surface with a modified solvent gel; filling and retouching of the painted surface; constructive treatment (in order to make the door fit in a modern door frame); writing a treatment report.



November  
2016 – January  
2017

**Nassaulaan 2b, The Hague:** Architectural paint research carried out in a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century building (now used as an office) to determine the original appearance of the interior.

**Supervisor:** J. Tegelaar (UvA).

**Activities:** Documentary research; on-site stratigraphic research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; SEM-EDX analysis; virtual reconstruction; advice on reconstruction; writing a treatment report.



November  
2016

**Amerongen Castle, Amerongen:** Assisted with conservation treatment of 18<sup>th</sup>-century painted wall hangings (oil paint on linen).

**Supervisors:** N. van der Woude (SRAL)

**Activities:** Dry cleaning; detaching the canvas to flatten the surface by means of a climate treatment.



October-  
November  
2016

**Westerkerk Enkhuizen:** Establish a baseline for the collection of the Westerkerk (Western Church) in a condition report. The collection consists of several (wooden) objects, e.g. a 16<sup>th</sup>-century choir screen, funerary hatchments and a renaissance pulpit.

**Supervisors:** R. Klusener (UvA) and M. Lantman (UvA).

**Activities:** Write a detailed condition report to establish a baseline for preventive conservation; minor treatments (dry cleaning, consolidation of flaking paint layers, (re-)attach loose ornaments on the choir screen, filling up woodworm holes; writing a guide for preventive conservation for the volunteers; writing a treatment report.



February-June  
2016

**Nieuwe Herengracht 143, Amsterdam:** Architectural paint research carried out on an ornamental plaster ceiling and wainscoting in one of the rooms of a canal house from 1724 (Nieuwe Herengracht 143, Amsterdam). This research was part of my MA-thesis.

**Supervisors:** dr. M. Stols-Witlox (UvA) and N. van der Woude (SRAL)

**Activities:** To determine the original appearance of the room documentary research; on-site stratigraphical research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; SEM-EDX analysis was carried out; writing an extensive treatment report (thesis).



April 2016

**De Nollen, Den Helder:** Research aimed at (preventive) conservation of the artwork “Vergilius” (1992), two painted interiors in a bomb shelter in Den Helder, made by the artist R. van de Wint.

**Supervisors:** N. van der Woude (SRAL).

**Activities:** Documentary research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; SEM-EDX analysis; on-site testing of cleaning methods; draft a report on conservation and treatment of the two spaces.



March 2016

**St. Joris Church, Amersfoort:** Preliminary research on a mural painting (fresco) in the Sint Joriskerk in Amersfoort.

**Supervisor:** N. van der Woude (SRAL)

**Activities:** Visual inspection of the fresco and making a damage assessment.





October 2015-  
January 2016

**Ateliergebouw UvA/Rijksmuseum/RCE, Amsterdam:** Conservation treatment of an 18th-century rococo chimney piece (oil painting on linen, mounted on a wooden frame).

**Supervisors:** N. van der Woude (SRAL) and D. van Kempen (UvA)

**Activities:** Documentary research; surface cleaning (with aqueous solutions); climate treatment to restore the surface of the canvas; consolidation of paint layers; application of strip lining on canvas; remounting the painting on its frame; application of patches and supports on holes and tears; constructive treatment of wooden frame; microscopic analysis of paint samples; writing a treatment report.



September-  
October 2016

**Royal Palace Amsterdam:** Writing a “housekeeping-plan” for the preventive conservation of the interior of the Royal Palace in Amsterdam. This project was carried out in the context of the Master course “Advanced Preventive Conservation”.

**Supervisors:** S. Coene (Keeper of furniture Royal Palace) and C. Waldthausen (UvA).



February -  
June 2015

**Ateliergebouw UvA/Rijksmuseum/RCE, Amsterdam:** Preliminary research on four overpainted window shutters from an 18th-century monument (het Moriaanshoofd) in Alkmaar.

**Supervisor:** D. van Kempen (UvA)

**Activities:** Documentary research; stratigraphic paint research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; SEM-EDX analysis; uncovering 18th-century painting by removing modern paint layers, using modified solvent gels; writing a treatment report.

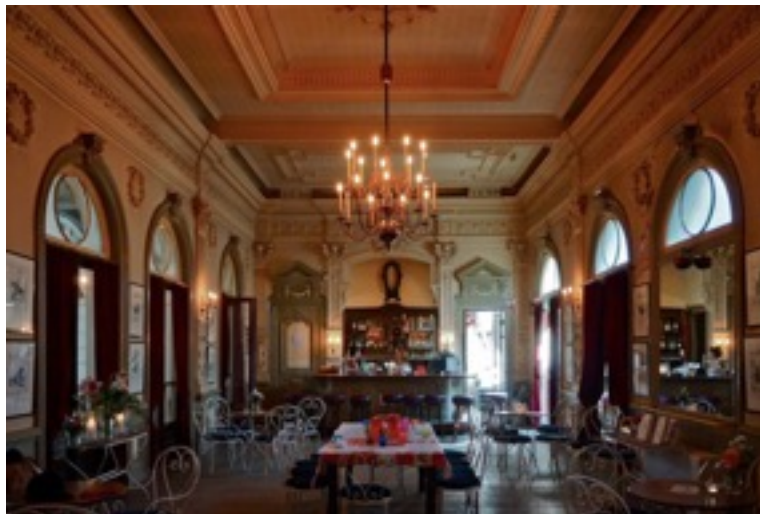


November  
2014-January  
2015

**Hollandsche Manege, Amsterdam:** Architectural paint research to determine the original appearance of the foyer in the Hollandse Manege (riding school).

**Supervisor:** dr. M. Polman (UvA)

**Activities:** Documentary research; stratigraphic paint research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; writing a treatment report.



June-August  
2013

**Porticus Aemilia Campaign, Rome, Italy**

**Supervisors:** prof. G.J. Burgers (KNIR and VU) and dr. R. A. Kok-Merlino (UvA).

**Function:** Assistant

**Activities:** Archaeological excavation of a building from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC; documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata.



- June-August  
2012 **Porticus Aemilia Campaign**, Rome, Italy  
**Supervisors:** prof. G.J. Burgers (KNIR and VU) and dr. R. A. Kok-Merlino (UvA)  
**Function:** Assistant  
**Activities:** Archaeological excavation of a building from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC; documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata.
- June-August  
2011 **Satricum Project**, Borgo Le Ferriere, Italy  
**Supervisor:** prof. M. Gnade (UVA)  
**Function:** Supervisor/student  
**Activities:** Archaeological excavation of a necropolis from the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC; in charge of an excavation pit; writing daily reports; supervise students.
- June-August  
2010 **Timpone Della Motta Campaign**, Francavilla Marittima, Italy  
**Supervisors:** dr. J. Kindberg Jacobsen (University of Aarhus/GIA (Groningen Institute of Archaeology)) and prof. P. Attema (GIA)  
**Function:** Assistant  
**Activities:** Archaeological excavation of a Bronze Age hut from the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC; documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata.
- May-June  
2010 **Fieldcourse Veldhoven**, Veldhoven, The Netherlands.  
**Supervisors:** dr. A.A. Verhoeven (UvA), dr. A. Numan (UvA), dr. M. Driessen (UL)  
**Function:** Student  
**Activities:** Archaeological excavation of a Medieval settlement; documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata; process the finds in different computer programmes.
- May-August  
2009 **Timpone Della Motta Project**, Francavilla Marittima, Italy  
**Supervisors:** dr. J. Kindberg Jacobsen (Aarhus/GIA) and prof. P. Attema (GIA)  
**Function:** Assistant  
**Activities:** Archaeological excavation of a Bronze Age temple complex from the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata; process the finds in different computer programmes.
- November-  
December  
2008 **Timpone Della Motta Project**, Francavilla Marittima, Italy  
**Supervisors:** dr. J. Kindberg Jacobsen (Aarhus/GIA) and prof. P. Attema (GIA)  
**Function:** Assistant  
**Activities:** Archaeological excavation of a Bronze Age temple complex from the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata; process the finds in different computer programmes.

October-  
November  
2008

**Raganello Archaeological Project (RAP)**, Francavilla Marittima, Italy  
**Supervisors:** prof. P. Attema (GIA), dr. M. van Leusen (GIA), dr. W. de Neef (GIA)  
**Function:** Assistant  
**Activities:** Archaeological field survey aimed at mapping previously unknown Bronze Age settlements in the Raganello valley. Processing the finds; categorisation of pottery.

### Previous Positions

- 2012-present **Interpreter Russian-Dutch /English.** Last: interpreter for a meeting in restoration institute SRAL in Maastricht, between Dutch and Russian (from GosNIIR (State Research Institute for Restoration Moscow)) conservators.
- 2012-2015 **Hermitage Amsterdam**  
**Function:** Employee public assistance  
**Activities:** Welcoming visitors; providing information; sell and check tickets and provide cloakroom service; interpret and assist at concerts, lectures and exhibition construction, when Russian musicians, scholars or curators were present.
- 2005-2009 **Fenix Interior construction**, Kampen, The Netherlands  
**Function:** Assistant  
**Activities:** Summer jobs, assistance in large-scale renovation projects of interiors.
- 2004-2012 Several jobs in hospitality sector, catering and organic farmers markets.

### Languages

Fluent: Dutch, English, Russian  
Work knowledge: Italian, German, French

### Skills

Architectural paint research and microscopic analysis;  
Sufficient knowledge of chemistry to create modified cleaning methods;  
Historic decoration techniques such as gilding, marbling and graining;  
Knowledge of historic decorative and coloured finishes and architectural styles;  
Trained to have a critical/ethical approach to conservation and restoration of artefacts.

### Interests

Historic interiors	Design	Literature
Cultural Heritage	Music	Sustainability
Preventive conservation	Architecture	History
Art: paintings, drawings, photography, conceptual art	Archaeology	Travelling
	Philosophy	Cooking