



Winterthur/University of Delaware  
Program in Art Conservation  
Conservation Report



**Accession #:** 2001.0017.0001

**Object:** [Portrait of an unidentified woman]

**Object Date:** 1885-1895

**Artist/Author:** Unknown

**Materials:** Albumen cabinet card print

**Owner:** University of Delaware Museums: "The Baltimore Collection"

**Permanent Location:** UD Museums Collections

**Reason for Treatment or Examination:** Examined as part of the photograph conservation block documentation project and aimed to add to the curatorial and conservation body of knowledge

**Examined by:** Natalya Swanson, WUDPAC 2020

**Report Date:** January 17, 2018

## DESCRIPTION

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This is an albumen print of a standing woman in a cabinet card format with the gallery name and location listed on the mount.

## CONDITION

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The photograph measures 14.0 cm tall by 10.3 wide. The mount is 16.4 cm tall by 10.8 cm wide. The Artstor entry lists different measurements.

The image is in overall fair, stable condition. It appears to have fading and discoloration overall with a yellowed cast. The surface has a thin layer of dust and grime, with the greatest concentration of dirt deposition on the left half. The print is not well adhered to the mount and is delaminating along the left, upper, and right edges. There are two losses to the surface along the lower edge, which appear to be discolored by embedded dirt or darkened paint from previous in-painting. An accretion located on the unidentified woman's bust appears similar to copper corrosion when viewed under magnification.

The verso of the laminated board has purple discoloration, likely resulting from mold staining. Fly specks and dirt are visible, as well as an orange-red stain of unknown origin. There are several losses near the bottom edge and abrasion to the corners has resulted in minor losses. The surface exhibits micro-cracking when viewed under magnification.

## TREATMENT

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1. The recto and verso were cleaned overall using cosmetic sponges.
2. Testing was carried out to determine appropriate solution for cleaning. The photograph was cleaned with a dilute enzymatic solution on rolled cotton swabs under magnification.
3. After cleaning, the surface was cleared with rolled cotton swabs dampened with deionized water.



■ Damage to image, binder, and/or lacquer due to loss, abrasion, flaking, cracking, crazing, and planar distortion

■ Mechanical damage to primary or secondary support resulting in tears, folds, creases, and planar distortions

■ Discoloration due to material off-set, acid migration localized discoloration and staining, and tide lines

■ Silver Image deterioration such as localized fading, mirroring, and yellowing

■ Iron corrosion

■ Tape and/or tape adhesive

■ Accretions and localized surface dirt

■ Mold and/or mold damage

■ Complete loss of primary and secondary supports, binder, and image