MICHAELA HANSEN

Curator & Appraiser

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Curatorial Experience

2023–26

Guest Curator, Costume & Textiles (C&T) Department
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)

Curator, *Fashioning Chinese Women: Empire to Modernity* (75 ensembles; 8,500 sq. ft., June–Oct. 2026). Permanent collection checklist examines the evolution of modern Chinese and Chinese American women's dress with focus on the development of fashionable textiles. Cultivated donor relationship; proposed and secured acquisitions to strengthen holdings. Catalogued artworks and conducted technical analysis of weave structures, fibers, and finishing treatments; closely collaborated with textile conservators and conservation scientists. Oversaw development of custom mannequins for exhibition to improve historical accuracy and cultural representation. Authored and edited the accompanying scholarly catalogue, commissioned and managed contributing authors.

Provided cross-departmental leadership across conservation, mounting, photography, exhibition design, and installation to ensure scholarly rigor and technical excellence. Contributed to opening events and related programming, including tours, symposium, marketing, publicity, and community and affinity group outreach, to expand audience engagement. Oversaw partnerships with exhibition design firm Chu-Gooding and fashion designer Jason Wu to develop custom mannequins.

2022–23

Assistant Curator, C&T Department
LACMA

Assistant Curator for encyclopedic collection of over 35,000 costume and textile objects representing more than 100 cultures over 2,000 years. Co-curator of permanent-collection exhibition *Lee Alexander McQueen: Mind, Mythos, Muse* (180 objects; 6,000 sq. ft.; Apr–Oct 2022) and international tour [*Alexander McQueen: Mind, Mythos, Muse*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (Dec 2022–Apr 2023); *Alexander McQueen: Art Meets Fashion*, Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Québec City (Jun–Sep 2023)]. Co-authored accompanying exhibition and tour venue catalogues.

Contributed curatorial and technical textile expertise to departmental and museum-wide initiatives in support of institutional mission. Co-curated fashion and textile installations and special exhibitions, including in the new Geffen Galleries. Managed loan requests, database records, collections photography, online collections, acquisitions, deaccessions, and provenance research annually for hundreds of objects. Conducted original art historical research on the permanent collection and textile weave and fiber analysis across the department's holdings. Supported collections management, costume and art mounting, and conservation. Cultivated positive donor and vendor relationships and contributed to fundraising initiatives. Supervised interns and fellows; organized research viewings and academic classes; and advanced diversity and accessibility within the collection.

2017–22

Curatorial Assistant, C&T Department
LACMA

Led departmental exhibitions and installations; managed light-sensitive rotations, outgoing loans, and acquisitions; and supported fundraising, public programming, and artist collaborations. Conducted research appointments, appraisals, and classes in offsite storage and the Doris Stein Research Center and provided subject-matter expertise to the public. Oversaw collection records in TMS and online platforms; coordinated cross-departmentally on artwork movement, conservation, and photography; mounted and dressed costumes for photography, events, and installations; and partnered with curatorial staff and donors to manage acquisitions, promised gifts, deaccessions, and insurance valuations.

2013–18

Curatorial Assistant, C&T Department and Lloyd Cotsen *Textile Traces* Collection
LACMA

Facilitated institutional collaboration between LACMA and the Lloyd Cotsen *Textile Traces* Collection (4,000-object private study collection of global textiles, now held by the Textile Museum at George Washington University). Conducted technical weave and fiber analysis, provenance research, and standardized database cataloguing of the collection. Directed publication-quality photography of more than 8,000 collection images, including microscopic conservation documentation.

Collaborated with museum departments, expert advisors, and artists to coordinate rehousing, conservation treatment, and material content analysis. Assisted in organizing related textile workshops and co-curated the exhibition *Fragmentary Tales: Selections from the Lloyd Cotsen "Textile Traces" Collection*. Managed communication, author contracts, budgets, negotiations, and project coordination among LACMA, the Cotsen Foundation, and contributing specialists. Conducted and published original research on *Textile Traces* objects.

2012–13

Graduate Fellow, C&T Department
LACMA

Researched, catalogued, conducted fiber and weave analysis, and rehoused two major permanent-collection acquisitions: the Sirop Collection of 158 high-fashion garments spanning 130 years, and the B. Rich collection of 113 global textiles.

2010–12

Graduate Intern, European Painting and Sculpture Department
The Art Institute of Chicago

Independent study and graduate internship in support of *Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity* (2012–2013 Musée d'Orsay, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago) and accompanying exhibition catalogue.

2009 Intern, Department of Fashion
Phoenix Art Museum

Responsibilities included collections and database management, artwork cataloguing, mannequin dressing, and assisting with the exhibitions *Medievalism: Fashion's Romance with the Middle Ages* (Feb–Jul 2009) and *One for All, and All for One: The Jumpsuit* (Sep–Feb 2009).

Appraisal Experience

2025– Independent Fashion & Textile Appraiser and Consultant
Michaela Hansen Textile and Clothing Appraisals

Specialized, independent appraisal of fair market value and replacement value estimates of clothing and textiles for USPAP-compliant insurance claims.

2026– Fashion & Textile Appraisal Consultant
Cora Ginsburg, LLC

Provide cataloguing, condition reporting, and other collection services for high-end dealer of rare historic textiles and fashion.

2025– Fashion & Textile Appraisal Consultant
Deborah Miller Appraisals, LLC

Catalogue artworks; research art historical and comparative sales data; and provide value estimates for USPAP-compliant appraisals of fashion, textiles, and works on paper for insurance and non-cash charitable donations.

Education

2010–12	Master of Design, Fashion	School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)
2005–09	Bachelor of Fine Arts, Apparel Design	Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)

Professional Development

2025	Principles of Valuation courses (PP201–204) for Personal Property Appraisal	In conjunction with American Society of Appraisers (ASA)
2025	Uniform Standards of Appraisal Practice (USPAP) for Personal Property	In conjunction with ASA
2016	Lyon Technical Course (weave structure and fiber identification)	In conjunction with the Centre international d'étude des textiles anciens (CIETA)

Exhibitions & Installations (Selected)

2026	Curator, *Fashioning Chinese Women: Empire to Modernity*	LACMA (Jun–Oct 2026)
2026	Co-Curator, *Dress Codes: Abstraction in Ancient Peruvian Textiles*	LACMA, 2026
2026	Co-Curator, *Indonesian Batik: Wax-Resist Cloth and Cultural Exchange*	LACMA, 2026
2025–26	Co-Curator, *Deep Cuts: Block Printing Across Cultures*	LACMA (Nov 2025–Sep 2026)
2023–25	Costume Consultant, *Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction*	LACMA (Sep 2023–Jan 2024); National Gallery of Art (Mar–Jul 2024); National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa (Nov 2024–Mar 2, 2025); The Museum of Modern Art, NYC (Apr–Sep 2025)
2023	Textile Consultant, *Coded: Art Enters the Computer Age, 1952–1982*	LACMA (Feb–Jul 2023)
2022–23	Costume Consultant, *Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890–1980*	LACMA (Oct 2022–Feb 2023); Milwaukee Art Museum (Mar–Jul 2023)
2022	Co-Curator, *Lee Alexander McQueen: Mind, Mythos, Muse*	LACMA (Apr–Oct 2022)
2022–23	Co-Curator, *Alexander McQueen: Mind, Mythos, Muse*	National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (Dec 2022–Apr 2023)

2023	Co-Curator, *Alexander McQueen: Art Meets Fashion*	Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Québec City (Jun–Sep 2023)
2021	Costume Consultant, *Acting Out: Cabinet Cards and the Making of Modern Photography, 1870–1900*	LACMA (Aug–Nov 2021)
2021	Textile Consultant, *Not I: Throwing Voices (1500 BCE–2020 CE)*	LACMA (Apr–Jul 2021)
2019	Costume Consultant, *Every Living Thing: Animals in Japanese Art*	LACMA (Sep–Dec 2019)
2019	Assistant, Collectors Committee Installation: African American Quilts by Laverne Brackens, Mary Lue "Mother" Brown, Sherry Byrd, Effie Jackson, and Rosie Lee Tompkins	LACMA (April 2019)
2019	Courier, *The Life of Animals in Japanese Art*	National Gallery of Art (June–Aug 2019)
2019	Assistant, *Power of Pattern: Central Asian Ikat from the David and Elizabeth Reisbord Collection*	LACMA (Feb–Jul 2019)
2018	Textile Consultant, Korean Rank Badge Light Sensitive Rotation	LACMA (Aug 2018)
2018	Assistant, Collectors Committee Installation: African Ceremonial Barkcloth Paintings	LACMA (Apr 2018)
2017–18	Costume Installation, *Found in Translation: Design in California and Mexico, 1915–1985*	LACMA/Getty Pacific Standard Time (Sep 2017–Apr 2018)
2018	Assistant and Courier, *Icons of Style*	Getty Center (Jun–Oct 2018)
2016–18	Assistant, *Reigning Men: Fashion in Menswear, 1715–2015*	LACMA (Apr–Aug 2016); Saint Louis Art Museum (Jun–Sep 2017); Powerhouse Museum (May–Oct 2018)
2015	Assistant, *African Textiles and Adornment: Selections from the Marcel and Zaira Mis Collection*	LACMA (April–Oct 2015)
2014	Assistant, *Fragmentary Tales: Selections from the Lloyd Cotsen Textile Traces Collection*	LACMA (Aug–Oct 2014)

2014	Assistant, *Kimono for a Modern Age*	LACMA (Jul–Oct 2014)

Books & Publications

2026	Exhibition Catalogue: ed. Hansen, Michaela, *Fashioning Chinese Women: Empire to Modernity*	Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art; New York: Delmonico Books/DAP, 2026
2024	Research Report: Esguerra, Clarissa M. and Michaela Hansen, "Reframing Fashion in the Exhibition *Lee Alexander McQueen: Mind, Mythos, Muse*"	*Dress*, 2024
2022	Exh. Cat.: ed. Esguerra, Clarissa M. and Michaela Hansen, with Katie Somerville and Danielle Whitfield, *Alexander McQueen: Mind, Mythos, Muse*	Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Melbourne: National Gallery of Victoria; New York: Delmonico Books/DAP, 2022
2022	Exh. Cat.: Esguerra, Clarissa M. and Michaela Hansen, *Lee Alexander McQueen: Mind, Mythos, Muse*	Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art; New York: Delmonico Books, 2022
2019	Exh. Cat. (Assistant): Esguerra, Clarissa M., *The Power of Pattern: Central Asian Ikats from the David and Elizabeth Reisbord Collection*	Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2019
2016	Exh. Cat. (Assistant): Takeda, Sharon S., Kaye D. Spilker, and Clarissa M. Esguerra, *Reigning Men: Fashion in Menswear, 1715–2015*	Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art; New York: Prestel, Delmonico Books, 2016
2016	Research Paper: "*Batik, ja, batik*:" Wiener Werkstätte Batik from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Cotsen Textile Traces Collections	Textile Society of America Symposium Proceedings, 988, 2016
2012	Exh. Cat. (Graduate Intern): Groom, Gloria, *Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity*	Art Institute of Chicago, 2012

Conference Presentations

2020	"A *Kati Rimo* Textile Design by Alexander McQueen"	Textile Society of America (TSA) Biennial Symposium 2020
2019	"Crackle: The Indonesian Inspiration behind Wiener Werkstätte Fashion Division Batik"	Costume Society of America (CSA) National Symposium 2019
2018	"Limited Edition: Wax-Resist Dyed Textiles for Wiener Werkstätte Fashion"	Costume Colloquium VI: Textiles in Fashion-Creativity in Context 2018
2016	"'*Batik, ja, Batik*,' Austrian Batik in Los Angeles Collections"	TSA Biennial Symposium 2016
2013	"Jane Addams, Hull House, and the Subject of Clothes"	CSA National Symposium 2013

Lectures, Teaching & Public Programs (Selected)

2026	Invited Speaker, *Fashioning Chinese Women*	Wadsworth Atheneum
2026	Co-Organizer and Speaker, *Ninth R.L. Shep Triennial Symposium on Textiles and Dress: Fashioning Chinese Women and Reiko Sudo*: "Made to Measure: Tailoring, Textile Innovation, and Individual Style in Modern Chinese Fashion"	LACMA
2026	Invited Speaker, *Fashioning Chinese Women*	China Society of Southern California
2026	Virtual Gallery Talk, *Fashioning Chinese Women*	LACMA Mellon Undergraduate Curatorial Fellowship
2026	Invited Speaker, *Fashioning Chinese Women*	Teaching About Asia Professional Network, USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
2026	Gallery Talk, *Fashioning Chinese Women: Empire to Modernity*	LACMA

2022	Co-Organizer, *Procession: An Evocation for McQueen* with San Cha and Olima	LACMA
2022	Co-Organizer, *Flipping Stereotypes on Their Stilettos* with Native Voices at the Autry	LACMA
2022	Co-Organizer and Speaker, *Eighth R.L. Shep Triennial Symposium on Textiles and Dress: Lee Alexander McQueen*	LACMA
2022	Webinar Panelist, “A Conversation with Michael Schmidt”	LACMA
2022	Invited Speaker, “Making the Exhibition: Lee Alexander McQueen”	Virginia Robinson Gardens
2022	Invited Speaker, “Textile Inspirations in *Lee Alexander McQueen: Mind, Mythos, Muse*”	Textile Museum Associates of Southern California, Inc.
2021	Webinar Panelist, “Behind the Scenes: McQueen”	LACMA
2019	Assistant, “Costume Council: Elizabethan Embroidery with Melinda Watt”	LACMA
2019	Co-Organizer, *Sixth R.L. Shep Triennial Symposium on Textiles and Dress: Reigning Men*	LACMA (May 2019)
2018	Instructor and Co-Organizer, “Reinventing the Woman’s Uniform: A Fashion Design Masterclass with Jason Wu”	LACMA with MADWORKSHOP and Otis
2018	Guest Lecturer, 2-D Design	Department of Art, Pomona College
2017	Lecturer, “The History, Anatomy, and Construction of the Pocket,” for *Omega Workshop: An Experiment in Counter-Fashion*	The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA) Project Space
2017	Visiting Artist, 2-D Design	Department of Art, Pomona College
2014	Co-Organizer, *Textile Society of America Biennial Symposium Pre-Symposium Workshop*, “Early Chinese Textile Analysis Featuring Selections from the Lloyd Cotsen Textile Traces Collection,” with Zhao Feng (China National Silk Museum), Elena Phipps (UCLA)	LACMA