

# Abigail Sempebwa

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At ATC, we offer bite-sized, five-minute lessons that make learning both enjoyable and accessible. I blend my diverse interests with community requests and questions, ensuring that our content resonates with everyone from all backgrounds.

## **EDUCATION**

**Forthcoming:** Master of Arts, Art History

Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX

- Accepted with scholarship, graduate assistantship, and TA-ship
- Concentration in High Italian Renaissance Art

**Master of Liberal Arts, Museum Studies**

**May 2024**

Harvard University, Cambridge MA

- Academic Achievement Award (3.87 GPA)
- Capstone project: Packing in a Panic: Protecting Collections in Wartime
  - Collections management, museum ethics, provenance and repatriation, art crime, registration and conservation, museum informatics, cultural heritage law, education and programming

**Bachelor of Arts, Multidisciplinary Studies**

**May 2021**

University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

- Created own major titled 'Museum Anthropology'
  - Art history, European history, Judaic and Holocaust studies, Classics, African and African American studies, Greek mythology, Egyptology, archaeology/anthropology

## **EXPERIENCE**

**Research Intern**

**June 2024 - Present**

**Monuments Men and Women Foundation, Dallas TX**

- Addressing art leads as they come; properly organizing them on our server; following up with those who contact the Foundation and initiating research when necessary
- Assist with research on some cases with wartime provenance concerns
- Initiate the inventorying of the Foundation's vast photographic collection.

**Teaching Assistant**

**August 2024-December 2024**

**Texas Christian University**

- Teaching assistant to upper-level class, Intro to Art History with Dr. Edith Peindado. This position includes grading papers and assignments, proofreading exams and image quality, "cover" for professor if they are delayed, keeping track of student engagement and participation throughout the duration of the course.
- Some of my scholarship on the Parthenon Marbles was included in lectures.

**Internship Mentor**

**May 2021 - Current**

## **Oklahoma Public Archaeology Network, Norman OK [remote]**

- Original teaching assistant for Tulsa Race Massacre archaeological internship, Voices of Greenwood
- Mentoring students who exit out of the Voices archeology program
- First point of contact for archaeological findings
- Managing social media & create content
- Serve as OKPAN's "museum consultant"

## **Collections Assistant**

**June 2023 - January 2024**

### **Harvard Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, Cambridge, MA**

- Trained by a conservator to vacuum and clean objects covered in dust. Worked independently once fully trained
- TMS data entry – updated object record information in TMS including object flag, updating measurements and other data entry cleanup
- Assisted curator in set up for exhibition, including packing and unpacking objects for shipping, creating wall texts and installing shelves
- Object handling - moved objects from storage to carts in preparation for cleaning, triaged cleaned objects for return to storage shelving

## **SKILLS**

Provenance Research | Collections management | Teaching | Writing/Editing | French | Object Cleaning

## **AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS**

- Dean's List Academic Achievement Award, Harvard University, 2024.
- Nazi-Era Art Provenance Research Training Program, University of Denver Center for Art Collection Ethics, 2024.
- Archaeology for K-12 Workshop, Archaeology in the Community, 2024.
- French Reading and Grammar, Immersion, Score 621 CEFR C1, 2025.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- FAQ Answered: Acknowledging All Who Saved Cultural Heritage. Monuments Men and Women Foundation Winter Newsletter, 2024. <https://www.monumentsmenandwomenfnd.org/newsletter>
- Recent Discovery Furthers Scholarship on Monuments Man Lt. Col. Edward Adams, Monuments Men and Women Foundation Winter Newsletter, 2024.
- "Rekindling" Tradition: Wiescherhöfen Banner Returns Home, Monuments Men and Women Foundation Winter Newsletter, 2024.
- Abigail Sempebwa's Role in the Wiescherhöfen Banner Restitution Ceremony, Texas Christian University School of Fine Arts, Nov. 2024. <https://finearts.tcu.edu/news/abbey-sempebwas-role-in-the-wiescherhofen-banner-restitution-ceremony/>

## **PRESENTATIONS & Papers**

### **1. Packing in a Panic: Safeguarding Museum Collections in Wartime May 2024**

Harvard University

Final Capstone project presentation on protecting museum collections in wartime.

### **2. "I Found a Woman!" December 2023**

Harvard University

A case study on the Winged Victory of Samothrace, its origins and the efficacy of its current museum display.

## 2. **“Saving the Louvre”** May 2023

Harvard University

Presenting the evacuation of the Louvre spearheaded by Jacques Jaujard in World War II. Discusses the initial decision, preparation, includes packing challenges and triumphs, transportation, and conservation efforts while objects were in hiding.

## 3. **“Voices of Oklahoma”** October 2023

Oklahoma Archaeology Conference (Poster symposium)

A review on the high-school ‘Voices’ internship thus far, which began in 2021. As the very first teaching assistant for the program, I played a vital role in developing the curriculum, and presented the experiences of the students who are now alumni of the program.

## 5. **“Dallas Junior Archaeologists”** October 2022

Oklahoma Archaeology Conference (Poster symposium)

An aspirational program addressing the lack of minority archaeologists in the field. Proposes a program in the North Texas region that connects with students from middle school through college through multiple approaches. This model could be used for other adjacent fields (ex. museum studies) to engage students of color at a formative age.

## **LANGUAGES**

- French (limited working proficiency)
- Latin (beginner to intermediate writing proficiency)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- International Council of Museums
- American Alliance of Museums

## **PERSONAL INTERESTS**

- Italian Renaissance art
- Nazi-era looting
- Art restitution & provenance
- Classics
- French and Italian history
- Ancient roman politics
- Museum education

## **OTHER**

- **Research appointments- January 2024**
  - **Musee du Louvre & Chateau de Versailles**  
3 archival visits to study the methods used to protect their collections during World War II.
- **Wiescherhöfen Restitution Ceremony- October 2024**  
The Monuments Men and Women Foundation held a restitution ceremony at the German Embassy in Washington DC, and I had the honor in participating. One of the responsibilities of my position includes research on cases with wartime provenance concerns such as the case of the Wiescherhöfen fire banner. My main contribution to the ceremony was anything surrounding the object itself, such as setting the banner up for display and ensuring it's safely packaged for its return to Germany. To learn more about the restitution itself, check out my above article I

wrote or read on the MMWF website here: <https://www.monumentsmenandwomenfnd.org/discoveries-and-restitutions/fire-department-parade-banner>

- **The Art Front by Rose Valland- December 2024**

Published by the Monuments Men and Women Foundation, the Art Front is the very first English translation of Le Front de L'art. I played a part in translations, back matter, editing, fact checking, and more. My name can be found in the acknowledgements.