

# CURRICULUM VITAE

Kate Sekules  
278 President St, Brooklyn NY 11231  
kate.sekules@bgc.bard.edu

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. [2026] Material Culture, Design History, Decorative Arts, Bard Graduate Center, NYC  
M.A. 2019, Costume Studies, New York University, Steinhardt  
B.A. 1986, English and Drama: Manchester and Middlesex Universities, U.K.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Teaching Fashion Sustainably: Pedagogy, Perspectives, Practice*, chapter. (Bloomsbury), 2026  
*Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of World Textiles*: five chapters, forthcoming  
*Mend! A Refashioning Manual and Manifesto* (Penguin Books), 2020  
*The Boxer's Heart* (Random House), 2000, 2002, 2012  
Guide Books: New York, London, Caribbean (Fodor's, Frommers), seventeen books, 1990–1998

### Articles

"The One Important Science of Embroidery" *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol 59 (1), Spring 2025  
"Optics of Obvious Mending" *Fashion Theory*, Vol 29 (6), Fall 2025  
"Hand-me-downs" *Selvedge*, Iss. 114, July/Aug 2023  
"Review: Worn, Sofi Thanhauser," *Selvedge*, Iss. 107 July/Aug 2022  
"Evil in the Wardrobe" *Selvedge*, Iss. 102, Sept/Oct 2021  
"Review: The Dharma of Fashion, Otto von Busch" *Journal of Dress History*, Vol 5, iss. 4, 2021  
"Review: Heavenly Bodies, Metropolitan Museum" *Address, Journal of Fashion Criticism*, 2018  
"Review: Items: Is Fashion Modern, MoMA" *Address, Journal of Fashion Criticism*, 2017  
Over 300 articles in publications including *New York*, *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vogue*, *Interior Design*, *Food & Wine*, *Gourmet*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Newsweek*, *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *Toronto Globe*, 1990–2014 (Full pre-academic publication record available on request)

### Digital

Mending Archives Working Group (MAWG): Devising vocabularies for Getty AAT, 2023–present  
VisibleMending.org: crowd sourced map documenting mending and repair worldwide, 2022–present  
Visiblemending.com: general site about mending, 2014–present  
Refashioner.com: legacy site of clothing redistribution project and business, active 2009–2014

## TEACHING

Instructor, "Studio Technologies," Fashion MFA, Pratt Institute, Fall 2025  
Visiting Assistant Professor, "History of Modern Fashion," Pratt Institute, 2021–present  
Lecturer/ Instructor, Custom Collaborative Training Institute, New York, 2019–present  
Doctoral Teaching Fellowship, "Mending Fashion" Bard Graduate Center, Spring 2025  
Lecturer, original syllabus, "Mending Fashion," Parsons, Art & Design Hist. & Theory, 2023  
Instructor, FabScrap "Sewing Circles & Systems Change," 2025–present

"Darn It" Mending Group, cohost, Textile Arts Center Brooklyn, 2023–present  
"Dr Mend's Surgery," workshop, multiple venues, and virtual, 2021–present  
Mending Group, Bard Graduate Center, 2022–present

## INVITED LECTURES, ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES

### 2025

"Making as Research;" Darning Masterclass, The Royal School of Needlework and Pasold Research Fund conference on historical needlework, Hampton Court Palace [August]  
"Mending Across Cultures," MFA Design & Society, Parsons, March  
"Visible Mending as a Political Act," Williams (course title, guest lecturer), February  
"International Winter School: Textile Archaeology For Researchers, Conservators And Curators," Department Of Cultural Heritage, University Of Padua, Italy, January

### 2024

"Red Cloth, White Glass, and a Horse's Behind: Dress of Dissent Encoded in a Seventeenth Century French Genre Painting," Association of Dress Historians, The Tower of London, October  
"The Art and Craft of Mending," lecture/workshop, JP Morgan Chase, NYC, October  
"The Importance of Patching," public lecture, Gressenhall Museum, UK, September  
"Mending in history and as design practice," Sustainable Design Concepts MA, FIT, September  
"The Hand in the Traces: Interrogating Textile Mends," 36th CIHA World Congress, Lyon, June  
"Mending methodologies," Fashion, Climate & Communication MA, Pratt Institute, April  
"New Pedagogies of Mending," HSE Doctoral School in Arts & Design, Moscow, April  
"Mending, all ways," lecture/workshop: Sustainability MA, Columbia University, April  
"Visible Mending" lecture and workshop, Stevenson Library, Bard College, April  
"The Culture of Mending as Transformation," MFA Design & Society, Parsons, March  
"Mending as Art" Fashion, Architecture, and Fine Art, St John's University, March

### 2023

"Repair & Rethink with Kate Sekules" *Selvedge* workshop, November  
"A History & Theory of Mending" *Fashion Revolution Weekend*, Textile Month UK, November  
"Introducing MAWG" Dress and Textile Specialists Conference, Belfast, UK, October  
"Mending in the World: Kate Sekules and Bridget Harvey," Fabrications, London, October  
"Mendology," North Eastern Public Humanities, Columbia, Yale, BGC, NYC, April  
"Mend/Touch" public lecture, Creative Mornings New York, February  
"A Wunderkammer of Mends," *Mending & Making* Symposium, British Museum, UK, January

### 2022

"Visible Mending in New York," NHK National News Japan, December  
"Woodstock to Watergate" American Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Nov  
"Collecting Damage" Dress and Textile Specialists Conference, Bristol, UK, October  
"The Mend as Mirror" *The Needle's I: Stitching Identity*. Winterthur Needlework Conference, Oct.  
"The Last Darn: The History and Future of the Ballerina's Intimate Relationship with her Pointe Shoe" Association of Dress Historians Annual Conference, September  
"Mending: History and Future," Costume & Textile Association, UK, July  
"Dress Repair as Artifact," Costume Society of America, 48th Annual National Symposium, May  
"Co-designing Wardrobe," Custom Collaborative, EarthDay, Union Square NYC, April

"Healing & Repair, Reciprocity & Exchange" Groundwork Dialogues Symposium, U.K., February  
"History of Mending " lecture and workshop, Design M.A., Fashion Institute of Technology, Feb

## **2021**

"Mend More Buy Less," New Research in Dress History, Association of Dress Historians, UK, June  
"Mending as Design," New School, Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, April  
Workshops: Darning, Patching. Winterthur Design Fair, Winterthur Museum, May  
"History of Mending" lecture and workshop, Design M.A. Fashion Institute of Technology, February

## **2020**

"Undressing Fashion: Mending as Design," Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, November (virtual)  
"Stocking Darns And The Gilded Age Woman In New York," and "Repair-making as activism"  
(two papers) Textile Society of America Biennial Conference, October (virtual)  
"Fashion Sustainability, Mending as Activism," Tufts University, October (virtual)  
"Waste & Design: Re-enchantment ," Fashion Design B.A., Drexel University, April (virtual)  
"Textiles and Cultures of Mending and Making," Parsons School of Design, March (virtual)  
"Cultures of Mending," Fashion Studies B.A. Columbia College, March (virtual)  
"Both Conspicuous and Vulgar: Stockings, 1870 – 1900: Keeping Up With Fashion, Upkeep, and  
Keeping Them Up," American Everyday Conference, Columbia College, Chicago, February

## **2019**

"Mending History," Fashion Studies Alliance at Textile Arts Center NYC, December  
"Evil in the Wardrobe" Association of Dress Historians, "Victorian Age," London, October  
"Mending as Activism" Drexel University Fashion, Style & Global Culture Conference, September  
"Evil in the Wardrobe" 18th Annual Richard Martin Costume Studies Symposium, NYU, April  
"Art for Brand's Sake", Authenticity, Value and Subversion in Fashion Symposium, NYU, January

## **2018**

"Whose Rags Are These Anyway? Solving a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Dress Mystery" CSA Conference, Oct  
"Upcycling" Fashion Sustainability; Critical Studies, Visual Culture, Parsons, October  
Refashioning workshop, Integrative Studio, Parsons School of Design, October  
"How We Wear Clothes, and why it matters" Friends Seminary, September

## **2014-2017**

"Refashioning" Fashion Sustainability; Critical Studies, Visual Culture, Parsons, 2016  
Speaker series creator, moderator: "Let's Kill Fashion," Neue House, NYC, 2014  
Panelist/ Speaker: E-commerce & Sharing economy: Social Retail Forum, NYC, 2014-2016  
Panelist/Speaker: Ethical Fashion Summit, London, 2014, 2015  
Panelist/ Speaker: E-commerce & Sharing economy: General Assembly, NYC, 2014, 2015  
Panelist/ Speaker: E-commerce & Sharing economy: RetailTechCon, Orlando FL, 2014

## **EXHIBITIONS**

Co-curator, "Make It Here: NYC Fashion," Museum of Arts & Design, [2027]  
Exhibiting artist, "Human Natures" touring five UK museums, Sept 2025–Dec 2028  
Exhibiting artist, "Transformations," Winterthur Museum, June 2024- January 2025  
Exhibiting artist, Cornell Biennial "Material Resistance" Cornell, Winter 2022

Exhibiting artist, curatorial assistant, "Conserving Active Matter," BGC Gallery, spring 2022  
Co-curator, "Gray Area, Authenticity, Value and Subversion in Fashion," 80 WSE Gallery, 2019  
Facilitator, mending and its history, "Repair & Design Futures," RISD Museum, 2019

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

Mending Archives Working Group (MAWG), Founder, convener  
Textile Society of America Vocabularies Project, Mending contributor  
New Standard Institute NYC, Advisory Council  
Fashion Revolution, Founding U.S. Board  
Common Objective, UK, Consultant, Key Advisor  
Ethical Fashion Forum, UK, Board Member  
Member: Textile Society of America; Association of Dress Historians; Dress and Textiles Specialists;  
Textile Society; American Institute for Conservation; Vintage Fashion Guild; Brooklyn Lace Guild;  
Fashion Studies Alliance

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Visible Mending co-design/repair practice: digital humanities and teaching, 2014–present  
Refashioner, closet trading site with ethnographic analysis, founder, CEO, 2009–2014  
Assistant, Costume & Accessories Collections, Museum at F.I.T, 2018  
1990–2010: Editor in Chief, *Gourmet Live*, Condé Nast; *Culture+Travel*, Blouin Media  
Travel Editor, *Food & Wine*, Time Inc (Full pre-academic professional resume available on request)