CURRICULUM VITAE

Kate Sekules
278 President St, Brooklyn NY 11231
kate@refashioner.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2026 Material Culture, Design History, Decorative Arts, Bard Graduate Center, NYC
M.A. 2019, Visual Culture: Costume Studies, New York University
B.A. 1989, English and Drama: Manchester and Middlesex Universities, U.K.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Mending: A Buried History (working title). In preparation (Yale, tbc, 2028)
Mending. In preparation (*Fashion in Action* series, Bloomsbury Visual Arts, 2028)
Teaching Fashion Sustainably: Pedagogy, Perspectives, Practice, chapter. (Bloomsbury), 2026
Mend! A Refashioning Manual and Manifesto (Penguin Books), 2020
The Boxer's Heart: A Woman Fighting (Random House, Overlook), 2000, 2002, 2012
Guide Books: New York, London, Caribbean (Fodor's, Frommers), seventeen books, 1990–1998

Articles

"Optics of Obvious Mending" *Fashion Theory*, Vol 29 (6), Fall 2025
"The One Important Science of Embroidery" *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol 59 (1), Spring 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): Metadata and vocabularies project, 2023–present
VisibleMending.org: crowd sourced map documenting mending and repair worldwide, 2022–present
Visiblemending.com: general site about mending and personal work, 2014–present
MendMarch: social media (IG @visiblemend) community project soliciting mends, 2018–2026
Refashioner.com: legacy site of clothing redistribution project and business, active 2009–2014

TEACHING

Academic

Visiting Assistant Professor, "History of Modern Fashion," Pratt Institute, 2022–present
Lecturer, original syllabus, "Mending Fashion," Parsons, Art & Design Hist. & Theory, 2023, 2027
Instructor, "Studio Technologies," Fashion MFA, Pratt Institute, Fall 2025–present
Doctoral Teaching Fellowship, MA seminar, "Mending" Bard Graduate Center, Spring 2025

Studio Workshops (selected)

"World's Biggest Mendathon. On a Boat," Manhattan II, Pier 40, NYC, July 2026
Beyond Utility Mending Workshop, FTS: History, Theory, Museum Practice MA, FIT, 2025–present
Disruptive mending workshop, Sustainable Design Concepts MA, FIT, September 2025–present
Lecturer/ Instructor, "Mending" Custom Collaborative Training Institute, NYC, 2019–present
"Darn It!" Mending Club, 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

EXHIBITIONS

Co-curator, "Make It Here: NYC Fashion," Museum of Arts & Design, [2028]
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

INVITED LECTURES, ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES

[2027]

"A Brief History of Future Mending" Prosperity Fashion, Università degli Studi di Firenze, February
"Mending as Embroidery," Embroiderers' Guild of America, April, October

2026

"Critical Mending: A Call to Hands" Costume Society of America 52nd Annual Symposium, June
"Cultures of Mending as Transformation" Fashion Cultures MA, Parsons, The New School, April
"Upcycling and Recreation Practices" 20th Sustainable Business and Design Conference, FIT, April
"Mending History and Practice" FTS: History, Theory, Museum Practice MA, FIT, March
"Mending as Embroidery: A history of beautiful stitch repair" Royal School of Needlework, January
"Hand/Mending: News from the Coalface" The Hand: Emotions, Embodiment, Identity,
London College of Fashion, University of the Arts, London, January

2025

"Historical and disruptive mending," Sustainable Design Concepts MA, FIT, September
"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
"Darning vs 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 17th Century Dress Mystery" CSA Conference, October
"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
"Let's Kill Fashion," Speaker series creator, moderator: 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

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 (UK); Union of Concerned Researchers in Fashion; 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)