

Jo Luggens is the winner of the 2023 AICCM/ADFAS Mornington Peninsula Outstanding Conservation Student from the University of Melbourne. Jo completed their Masters by Coursework in Cultural Materials Conservation this year. They have a particular interest in queer and women's heritage in fine art, and the issues involved in securing and strengthening queer identity through the conservation of queer cultural heritage. Jo is a member of AICCM and is currently Secretary of Student Conservators at Melbourne (SC@M).

Jo has been instrumental in the SC@M proposal for the recent changes to the AICCM Codes of Ethics and Practice to the more trans-friendly and trans-inclusive pronouns they/them/theirs. They have been a key part of the SC@M team engaged in workshops and public facing events, including a new event to bring friends and family into the Grimwade Centre to meet staff and hear about student projects.

Over the past two years as a Master of Cultural Materials Conservation student, Jo has worked on a number of conservation projects for private and public collections. The conservation of treatment of a Mary Norrie painting in the first year of their program, led to Jo's minor thesis on 'The formulation of early Australian emulsion paints - A case study of the brand Vynol Paints between 1964 and 1975 as used by Mary Norrie in six of her paintings', to develop characteristic material information on Vynol paints, a twentieth century artists' paint that was used by many of the Australian 'Colour Field' Artists. Jo's work assisted in the identification and conservation of twentieth century paintings including Virginia Cuppajidge's 'Cytheria', a large scale 196 x 606 cm painting, that Jo conserved with a student team. 'Cytheria' was exhibited at the Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Jo features in ArtGuide, <https://artguide.com.au/the-art-of-restoration-with-virginia-cuppajidge/>, and Artlink Magazine, [In Conversation: Virginia Cuppajidge and Una Rey at Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Sydney Contemporary Art Fair 2023. | Artlink Magazine](#)>

