

# ABSTRACT

## **Paper Hair and Paper Maché: Mounting Two Korean Headpieces at the Victoria and Albert Museum Using Paper Materials**

**Presenter:**

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In 2018, several nineteenth and twentieth century traditional Korean headpieces were installed in a new gallery rotation at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A). This poster will describe the use of paper materials to mount two different Korean costume and textile objects: a woman's ceremonial headdress ensemble and a man's samo hat. For the woman's headdress, conservation and curatorial collaborators chose to attach 'hair' made of strips of paper onto a paper-textured head mount repurposed from an earlier exhibition (*Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty, 2015*) to both provide context as well as concealed support to the objects. It was important that the hair be styled in a way that resembled traditional Japanese hairstyles enough to evoke an impression of how the headdress would look when worn without visually distracting from the various headdress components. Challenges in creating the volume of the bun around the binyeo, a horizontal metal hairpin at the lower back of the head, resulted in different prototypes for curators' consideration. Mount materials were again repurposed: the mount for the man's samo hat selected to accompany the woman's headdress was constructed by first sculpting a more traditionally masculine shape around the slender McQueen mount with Ethafoam® and padding with wadding to serve as the base structure. The adapted form was then used as a mold for a Foshhape® replication which was thereafter covered with paper maché to mirror the external texture of the McQueen mount and create a visual likeness between the headdress and samo head mounts. A padded support was then created to support the samo from inside. From the collaboration of textile conservators, curators, and mountmakers, creative techniques were used to mount each unique piece, delicately balancing physical support while maintaining the desired aesthetic presentation.

# BIO



Andrea Goldstein is the Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Costume and Textiles Conservation at The Philadelphia Museum of Art. She graduated from the University of Glasgow Centre for Textile Conservation and Technical Art History program in 2019 and has a bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Virginia. Her preprogram and graduate experience includes placements at the University of Virginia Library Preservation Services, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, National Museums Scotland, and The Victoria and Albert Museum.