



AMÉLIE COUV RAT DESVERGNES

## Book & Paper Conservator

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**PROFILE** Book and paper conservator specialising in Islamic and South Asian arts on paper and manuscripts, with 25 years' experience as a freelance and salaried professional. Research projects on the materiality and techniques. Training, short courses and publications.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE** [Book conservator | KB-Nationale Bibliotheek | The Hague | 2024-2025](#)

Project coordinator for the move of the collections: planning, prioritization and conservation.

**Beit Gazo Centre de Conservation des Eglises d'Orient | Lebanon** | Conservation of Eastern Christian manuscripts (3 months).

### [Conservation & research project | Wereldmuseum | Leiden | 2020-2023](#)

Drawings and paintings from Northwestern India (Former J-Philippe Vogel's collection)- research on the paper used, the techniques and the materials and conservation treatment for future display and handling. The project was funded by Metamorfoze NL.

Series of lectures in India and Pakistan as part of a study tour: Chamba, Chandigarh, Lahore (National College of Art; Lahore University of Management Sciences; Lahore Museum).

### [Paper conservator | Rijksmuseum | Amsterdam | 2017-2019](#)

Curative and preventive conservation for new acquisitions, loans and displays (temporary exhibitions, gallery rotations) of western prints and drawings from the 16th to the 20th centuries and Indian miniature paintings. Training of UvA conservation master students.

### [Paper & book conservator | Museum of Islamic Arts | Qatar | 2012 - 2016](#)

Practical conservation of books and 2-dimensional works on paper for exhibition, permanent collection, rotations and outgoing loan; exhibition installation; condition assessment of the manuscript collection; training and supervision of museum and library staff; preventive conservation and storage rehousing; procurements; participation in procedures, policies and disaster plan; supervision of interns.

### [Independent paper & book conservator | Paris | 2002 - 2011](#)

**Musée du Quai Branly, Ethnographic Museum, Paris:** conservation of books and paper items (large range of graphic material from various materials, cultures, and origins): conservation treatments, expertise on preventive conservation, housing and mounting, condition assessment.

**Musée du Louvre, Department of Islamic Art:** conservation of books and folios (calligraphies, miniature paintings...) for the reopening of the department.

**Palais Impérial de Compiègne:** conservation of 19th-century architectural drawings, prints, books, and albums.

**Bibliothèque de Compiègne:** maintenance and stabilization of medieval manuscripts and early printed books.

**Cinémathèque Française:** conservation of 19th and 20th century books and albums.

**PUBLICATIONS** Downloadable on <https://independent.academia.edu/AmélieCouvratDesvergnès>

**2024 | Jean Philippe Vogel: Collector of Pahari Artworks**, in *Aziatisch Kunst*, Jaargang 54, nr.1, maart 2024, Leiden: Brill.

**2024 | Nineteenth-century Kashmiri Paper: Victor Jacquemont's Account of an Unparalleled Craftsmanship**, In *Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies Bulletin* 9, Hamburg University.

**2024 | Victor Jacquemont or The Art of Writing in Nineteenth-Century India**, In *Hand Papermaking Magazine*, summer 2024.

**2024 | Amélie Couvrat Desvergnès and Agnieszka Helman Wazny, Sialkoti paper used by Pahari artists: raw materials and fibre analysis**, In *Heritage Science* volume 12, Article number: 268.

**2023 | Guṭakās from north-western India: an introduction to their structures and materials**, in *Tied and Bound: Comparative Views on Manuscripts Binding*, *Studies in Manuscript Cultures*, 33, ed. by A. Bausi and M. Friedrich, Berlin: De Gruyter.

**2023 | Sialkoti paper used for the production of Pahari drawings and paintings in northwest India**, in *Artists' Paper A Case in Paper History*, edited by Penelope Banou et al. Horn/Wien: Verlag Berger.

**2023 | Contribution to the book Conservation of Books** edited by Abigail Bainbridge | London: Routledge.

**2023 | Book Culture in north-western India: An insight into the production and the materiality of Indic handwritten artefacts in the nineteenth century**, proceedings for the 18th conference Care and Conservation of Manuscripts, ed. Matthew Driscoll, University of Copenhagen, Museum Tusculanum Press.

**2022 | Willem Floor and Amélie Couvrat Desvergnès, History of Paper in Iran: 1501-1925**. Washington: Mage Publishers.

**2021 | Cut-Out Calligraphy from the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries: Discussion of Its Origins and Significance and Observations on the Techniques and Tools Used**, in *Journal of Muslim Material Culture*. Leiden: Brill.

**2021 | Couvrat Desvergnès et al. Dutch or Iranian? Technical study of a seventeenth-century painting on paper from Gesina Ter Bosch's scrapbook**, in *Heritage Science* 9, 119.

**2020 | De Hond et al. An Iranian Youth in an Album from Zwolle**, in *Rijksmuseum Bulletin* vol. 68 (3).

**2020 | Indian drawings from the Rijksmuseum: an insight into their production, their purpose and their significance**, in *ICON Conference post-prints*, 3-5 October 2018, ed. A. Bainbridge.

**SHORT COURSES** **2025 | Yale University Library** | Four-day short course *Indo-islamic papers: History, techniques and Manufacture*, in collaboration with Radha Panday, paper and printmaker.

**2024 | Institut National du Patrimoine | Paris** | Three-day short course *Les papiers Islamiques*, in collaboration with Radha Panday, paper and printmaker.

**2023 | Notarial Archives | Valletta | Malta** | Three-day short course on *Islamic papers: History and techniques*.

**2021 | Qatar National Library | Cultural Heritage Forum | Doha** | Professional courses on pigments and dyes in Arabic manuscripts.

**2016 | National Institute for Book Conservation | Istanbul** | A three-day short course on the ethics of book conservation.

**2008-2012 | Master Conservation-restoration | Paris** | in charge of the practical courses

**EDUCATION** **2002 MA in Conservation of Cultural Properties I Panthéon Sorbonne, Paris** - Specialty book and paper.

**1996 MA in Museology | Ecole du Louvre, Paris** - France.

**1995 BA in Art History | Ecole du Louvre, Paris** - France.