

RUSSELL-MARTI CONSERVATION SERVICES, Inc.

Russell-Marti Conservation Services, Inc. (RMCS), is a company dedicated to the care and preservation of artistic and historic works. The primary focus of RMCS is on the conservation of sculpture, in the media of bronze, stone, terra cotta, plaster and wood. Our special expertise is in the area of outdoor public art.

The partnership of Robert F. Marti and Marianne Russell Marti was formed in January of 1988 and became incorporated in January of 1990. RMCS combines a strong formal grounding in the theory and techniques of modern art conservation, a strong background in the visual arts and crafts, and extensive practical experience in the field of sculpture conservation. RMCS strives to provide optimum conservation treatments, based on careful technical and historical examination. Treatment techniques are monitored and updated in keeping with developments in the field of art conservation, and with the corporation's own constant exploration of improved conservation methods and materials. Membership is maintained by RMCS in American, Canadian, and European conservation organizations, and regular contact is maintained with other professional conservators.

The small, controlled size of the corporation insures that all conservation treatments are performed by the principal conservators themselves, whether the project is a large public monument, or an item for a private client. When dictated by a particular project, skilled artisans are employed to work directly with the principal conservators.

Russell-Marti Conservation Services, Inc. abides by the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice of the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works.

MARIANNE RUSSELL MARTI

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EDUCATION

- 1984 - 1987 **BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE**
Cooperstown, New York
• Major in Objects Conservation Master of Arts &
Certificate of Advanced Study
Art Conservation
- 1978 - 1982 **WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**
St. Louis, Missouri Bachelor of Arts
Art and Archaeology
College Honors

**CONSERVATION
EXPERIENCE**

- 1988 to Present **RUSSELL-MARTI**
CONSERVATION SERVICES, INC.
St. Louis, Missouri President/
Sculpture Conservator
• Co-owner, private conservation firm specializing in
examination and treatment of sculpture and 3-
dimensional objects.
- September 1986
to August 1987 **VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM**
London, England Conservation Intern
Sculpture Conservation Department
• Treatment of sculpture in terra cotta, stone, plaster
and ivory.
- Summer 1985 **NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART**
Kansas City, Missouri Conservation Intern
Department of Conservation
• Treatment of a painted panel from a 15th c.
Valencian altarpiece.
• Conducted a general condition survey of the
collection on display.
- September 1982
to May 1983 **WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**
TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATES
St. Louis, Missouri Conservation Assistant
• Treatment of outdoor sculpture in bronze and stone.
- April 1980
to May 1982 **CENTER FOR ARCHAOMETRY**
Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri Conservation Apprentice
Sculpture Conservation Laboratory
• Intensive two-year introduction to examination and
treatment of works of art, with special focus on
sculpture.
- PROFESSIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS**
- American Institute for Conservation (AIC),
Professional Associate
 - International Institute for Conservation (IIC)
 - International Institute for Conservation,
Canadian Group (IIC-CG)

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SELECTED CONSERVATION PROJECTS

1996

• **LINCOLN: ON THE PRAIRIE.** Artist/Date: Anna Hyatt Huntington/1963.

• **LINCOLN.** Artist/Date: Avarad Fairbanks/1954.

Monuments located at Lincoln's New Salem, Petersburg, Illinois. **Owner/Agent:** The State of Illinois/Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. **Description:** Two cast bronze sculptures, one an equestrian (15' H), one a standing figure (9' H). **Treatment:** The sculptures were selectively cleaned, to remove light corrosion products yet keeping traces of original patination. The sculptures were given a partial chemical patina to visually unify the surfaces, followed by a protective coating of Incralac.

1996

• **THE SPIRIT OF WOMANHOOD.** Artist/Date: Larry Griffis, 1961.

• **MOZART.** Artist/Date: Olin H. Warner/1898.

Public Sculptures located in Buffalo, New York. **Owner:** The City of Buffalo. **Description:** Cast Bronze sculptures. **Treatment:** Corrosion products were removed from the surface of the sculptures. Casting flaws were corrected for THE SPIRIT OF WOMANHOOD. New bronze plaques were modeled and cast for MOZART, using early photographs of the monument as a guide. The sculptures were repatinated and given a protective coating of Incralac.

1996

ELEVEN BRONZE SCULPTURES - Buffalo, New York.

Treatment: The sculptures, all having received conservation treatment previously, were given routine maintenance treatment per the initial conservators' recommendations as part of cyclical preservation treatment.

1996

OUTDOOR SCULPTURE COLLECTION, Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University - Wichita, Kansas. **Project:** Carried out

a general condition survey of the collection of over 50 outdoor sculptures, developed a long-range conservation plan for treatment and maintenance.

1995

KASKASKIA BELL - Kaskaskia Island, Illinois. **Foundry/Date:** Not Known (France)/1741. **Owner:** Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Description: Bronze bell, cast in France and gifted by the King of France to the French colony at Kaskaskia, Illinois, for use in the original parish church. **Treatment:** Mud and a tightly-adhering layer of corrosion products were removed using fine brass brushes on a flexible shaft machine; the bell was given a protective lacquer coating; the wrought iron clapper was removed, layers of paint were taken off with paint stripper, and active rust was stabilized with tannic acid; the clapper was then replaced in the bell.

1995 - Present **CENTAUR** - Buffalo, New York. **Artist/Date:** Charles Cary Rumsey/
cast 1930's. **Owner:** The City of Buffalo. **Description:** Over-life sized
cast bronze equestrian sculpture. **Treatment:** The upper section of the bow was not original to
the sculpture; a new one was modeled based on old photographs of the sculpture and of the
artist's maquettes; bow being cast in bronze and will be attached in 1997; a new pedestal was
designed for the sculpture, proportions based on the artist's clay sketches; oversaw removal and
storage of sculpture during work on the foundation; in 1996 corrosion products were removed
from the bronze, and the sculpture was repatinated based on artist's bronze model.

1992 - Present **VOLKER FOUNTAIN/"ST. MARTIN AND THE BEGGAR"**
- Kansas City, Missouri. **Artist/Date:** Carl Milles/dedicated 1958.
Owner: The City of Kansas City. **Description:** Larger-than-life-size bronze figure group:
equestrian, beggar, and two angels. **Treatment:** Disassembled and oversaw the removal of the
sculpture for storage, to allow major construction work on the site. Structural work needed on
the anchoring system of the equestrian; designed and fabricated an anchoring system for the
sculpture. Currently replacing missing and damaged details, using molds generated by the
Millesgården in Sweden. Following reassembly of the sculpture, the patina will be touched up as
necessary with pigmented wax, and a protective coating will be spray applied.

1994 • **JOIE DE VIVRE.** **Artist/Date:** Jacques Lipchitz/1927,
dedicated 1962.
• **SAINT FRANCIS.** **Artist/Date:** Carl Mose/1962.
• **EDWARD BATES.** **Artist/Date:** J. Wilson MacDonald/1871.
- Public sculptures in Forest Park, Saint Louis, Missouri. **Owner:** The City of St. Louis.
Description: Cast bronze sculptures. **Treatment:** Extensive maintenance work was carried out
on all of the sculptures: corrosion products were removed locally; cleaned areas were chemically
repatinated to blend with the existing patina, and further reintegrated with pigmented wax and/or
inpainted; all bronze surfaces were given spray applications of a protective coating. A missing
bird was recreated for the **Saint Francis** sculpture, based on old photographs. The bird was cast
in bronze, attached by welding, and chemically patinated to blend with the rest of the sculpture.

1993 - 1994 • **DAVID.** **Artist/Date:** Sabatino and Sons, direct cast from
Michelangelo/1900.
• **THE HIKER.** **Artist/Date:** Allen G. Newman/dedicated 1920.
• **YOUNG LINCOLN.** **Artist/Date:** Bryant Baker/1935.
- Public sculptures in Buffalo, New York. **Owner:** The City of Buffalo.
Description: The monuments are cast bronze figure sculptures, all larger-than-life-size.
Treatment: Corrosion products were removed from the surface of the sculptures; the sculptures
were chemically repatinated, based on historic research, and were given spray applications of a
protective coating.

1993 **BELL from the U.S.S. ARIZONA** - U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii. **Owner:** National Park Service. **Date:** 1916.

Description: One of two original bells from the battleship Arizona, this bell was a working ship's bell from 1916 onwards. The bell is made of cast bronze, and measures approximately 3 feet high x 3 feet wide (widest dimension). **Treatment:** Several previous coatings of thick, deteriorated wax were removed with a solvent. Corrosion products were locally removed using fine brushes on a flexible shaft machine. After discussion with the curatorial staff, the bell was polished by hand to approximate the shine it would have had while in service. A protective coating was spray applied to the bronze.

1991 - 1993 **ABRAHAM LINCOLN TOMB** - Springfield, Illinois.

Artist/Date: Larkin Mead/c. 1870. **Owner:** The State of Illinois;

Description: Colossal granite obelisk with monumental bronze sculpture groups.

Treatment: Maintenance of the four outdoor bronze figure groups, originally treated in 1981: Localized removal of corrosion products; adjustment of patina; reapplication of the protective coating.

1991 - 1993 **SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM** - Saint Louis, Missouri.

Condition Survey of the Oceanic, Pre-Columbian, and African Collections (8 months). Survey funded by IMS Conservation Grant, awarded August 1991.

1993 and

1988 - 1990

HERSCHELL-SPILLMAN CAROUSEL - Dearborn, Michigan.

Owner: Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village. **Date:** c. 1913.

Description: Antique wooden carousel; 40 carved and painted figures and 48 painted scenery panels. **Project:** 1988-1989: Condition Survey and Treatment Proposal.

Treatment: Conservation treatment of painted scenery panels -- stabilized flaking paint; removed discolored varnish and overpaint; applied isolation varnish; inpainted; applied final protective varnish.

1991 - 1992 **EBBETS FIELD CORNERSTONE** - Cooperstown, New York.

Date: 1912. **Owner:** National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Description: Cornerstone to Ebbets Field Baseball Stadium, made of a fine-grained, red/brown sandstone. **Treatment:** Consolidated the spalling and fragile areas of the stone; cleaned the stone, removing oily dirt and graffiti.

1991 - 1992 **GASLIGHT FIXTURES, DAVID DAVIS MANSION** - Bloomington, Illinois. **Owner:** State of Illinois. **Artist/Manufacturer/Date:** Cornelius

& Sons/c. 1872. **Description:** 48 ornate painted and lacquered brass and zinc gaslight fixtures.

Treatment: Phase I, a pilot study on 3 fixtures, to develop a treatment plan; completed in 1991; Phase II, treatment of the remaining fixtures: dismantled the fixtures; cleaned surface grime and removed non-original coatings; repaired broken parts; consolidated deteriorated coatings; cleaned metal; inpainted losses in surface finishes; rewired the fixtures to code; reinstalled the original fitters; applied a final protective surface finish.

1990 - 1991 **JAPANESE EAGLE** - Kansas City, Missouri. **Artist/Date:** Not known (Japanese)/late 19th - early 20th c. **Owner:** The City of Kansas City.
Description: Monumental cast bronze sculpture of an eagle with a wingspan of 14 feet.
Treatment: Disassembled sculpture; removed previous damaged and unasthetic repairs, designed and constructed internal armature, repaired individual sections of the eagle, replaced missing parts; removed corrosion products from all bronze surfaces, applied a historically correct chemical patina, applied a protective coating to the bronze.

1990 **LAUMEIER SCULPTURE PARK** - Saint Louis, Missouri.
Conservation Assessment of indoor and outdoor facilities; wrote detailed Treatment Proposals for sculpture in concrete, steel, and aluminum, as application for IMS Conservation Grant; Grant awarded August 10, 1990.

1989 **INDIAN HUNTER** - Buffalo, New York. **Owner:** City of Buffalo, New York. **Artist/Date:** J.Q.A. Ward/1865 & 1926.
Description: Cast bronze, over life-size figure of young hunter with a dog.
Treatment: Bow and arrow were missing; these were duplicated in bronze by taking a mold from another copy of same statue; removed corrosion products from the surface of the bronze, chemically patinated the bronze according to historical research, applied protective coating to the bronze.

1989 **STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS TOMB** - Chicago, Illinois. **Owner:** State of Illinois. **Artist/Date:** Leonard W. Volk/1881. **Description:** 90-foot granite column on a granite, marble, and limestone tomb/pedestal; colossal bronze figure on column; 4 allegorical figures and 4 bronze reliefs on lower level; marble bust and sarcophagus inside tomb.
Treatment: Removed corrosion products from the bronze; repatinated bronzes according to appearance of well-preserved indoor sculpture by the same artist; applied protective coating to the bronze surfaces; cleaned, desalinated, and consolidated the marble bust and sarcophagus; constructed new nose for the bust, based upon other portraits of Douglas by Volk.