



Building Arts & Conservation Inc.
Ron Koenig, Conservator
206 S. Ann Arbor Street
Saline Michigan 48176
c. 734.368.0838
ron@bldgconservation.com

May 3, 2024

To Whom it may concern,

Julie Cravens and I have known each other for about 17 years.

In 2017, Julie came to work with Building Arts & Conservation on a project at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Wyandotte, MI. She has her own studio and was able to accommodate work on ten paintings of the saints and medallions on canvas (6ft x 3ft). She recreated the medallions from photographic images and matched colors from samples of original painting colors. The saints were cleaned, restored, re-touched and varnished before being reinstalled on the ceiling of the church.

In 2021, I walked Julie through the Rackham Graduate Studies building on the University of Michigan campus and subsequently hired her to do 28 fire depressor covers that needed to match the colors and textures of each room they were in. Some of the rooms were wood and the depressors needed to be wood grained. Julie completed this work independently and with strong skills.

While working on the ceiling restoration project at the U of M Rackham Theatre in 2022, I came down with COVID and relied on Julie to oversee the project progress and crew while I recovered. She gained valuable experience in managing projects through previous employment and as a small business owner. She also helped train new people to use tools, clean tools, match colors, and perform the tasks required by the theater project.

Julie is a very talented and experienced decorative painter, conservation technician, project manager, and color matching. She has attended meetings with superintendents, architects, building managers, and is OSHA certified.

Other projects with Building Arts & Conservation include (2021) an historic apartment in Ann Arbor, MI where water damage to the ceiling caused missing sections of decorative and flat plaster. She created a mold and then cast the missing elements in resin. (2021) U of M Ruthven Rotunda Restoration, (2022) U of M Triton Fountain cleaning, (2022) Norman Towers ceiling restoration in Monroe MI, (2022) Papermill Schoolhouse restoration in Monroe MI, (2022) fabrication of light fixtures for Edsel Ford Home Pool restoration, (2022) The Detroit Athletic Club main dining room repair and restoration, and (2023) U of M President's Residence library paneling refinishing.

Building Arts & Conservation has also referred projects to Julie to work independently such as creating a faux patina on a religious sculpture at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Saline. In 2023, a former client of ours, Sarah McClure, had damage to a wall in her home that required color matching/repair and two outdoor bronze fountain sculptures that needed cleaning and waxing.

I trust Julie to work on projects independently. She is passionate about the work she does and has an incredible work ethic, often going above and beyond to make the jobs and projects go as best as they can. She has been an incredible asset to our company and is always welcome to join us on projects in the future. She is an independent contractor that is organized, always on time and committed to the work she does. With 30 years experience in decorative painting, conservation, restoration, mold making, color matching, training, and managing labor, she is definitely a “Jill of all trades” that loves to learn.

Anyone seeking Julie’s talent and time would gain a huge advantage in having her as a part of any project. She is very talented, outgoing, a skilled communicator on all levels and works well under pressure.

Sincerely,

Ron Koenig
Architectural Conservator

