

RESTORATION STUDIO

Honoring its mission to promote reflections on and the historical preservation of art, the Eva Klabin House Museum is holding its second Restoration Studio. This edition, which began in April 2025 under the supervision of archaeologist Simone Mesquita, gives visitors the opportunity to come into direct contact with the art of restoration, focusing on the museum's pre-Columbian artifacts. The transparency of the glass walls around the Chinese Room transforms the environment into a fertile space for knowledge sharing, satisfying visitors' curiosity and giving them a window on the secrets of conservation.

Conservation involves a range of technical operations designed to extend the life of cultural assets. Developing an in-depth experience of the collection, the restorer seeks not only to repair artifacts, but also to prolong — or even re-constitute — the potency of objects that have witnessed the passing of the centuries. Visitors can observe the restoration workshop and see first-hand how the physical and visual integrity of different objects is restored, respecting their original materiality and the historical processes that shaped them. The program also functions as a preparatory stage and opportunity for research ahead of the exhibition dedicated to the pre-Columbian collection scheduled for 2026 at the Eva Klabin House Museum.

This new project will restore a set of pieces that mostly come from a region that corresponds to present-day Peru. The main civilizations from this region that are represented in the Eva Klabin collection are the Nazca and the Chimú. Active between 100 B.C. and 800 A.D. on the southern coast of contemporary Peru, the Nazca produced polychrome anthropomorphic ceramics with fantastical figures. The Chimú, who flourished between 1200 and 1450 A.D. in the north, were known for their darker-hued molded ceramics. The pieces being restored include jars, flasks, bottles, statuettes, and whistling jars, which evoke elements of nature and reveal the profound connection between these peoples' everyday activities and their environment.