



Tru Vue, Inc.'s Optium at Winterthur for  
With Cunning Needle: Four Centuries of Embroidery



Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library is committed to an active exhibition program that advances its mission to promote a greater understanding of and appreciation for the decorative arts made and used in America. This project was organized in conjunction with the reproduction of an embroidered woman's jacket modeled from early-17th-century English examples.







Tru Vue's donation of Optium arrives at Winterthur in August, weighing 888 lbs. including the crate. Senior Preparator Nat Caccamo eagerly awaits the installation of the exhibition.



Winterthur's exhibition team planned this niche to display three embroidered objects relating to a nautical theme. The top rail will serve as the support for two sheets of Optium standing on end.



Curatorial Intern Heather Hansen and Textiles Conservator Joy Gardiner install an embroidered coverlet in the purpose-built niche





With an embroidered sailor's uniform and duffel in place, Nat prepares the niche's bottom rail for a sheet of Optium.

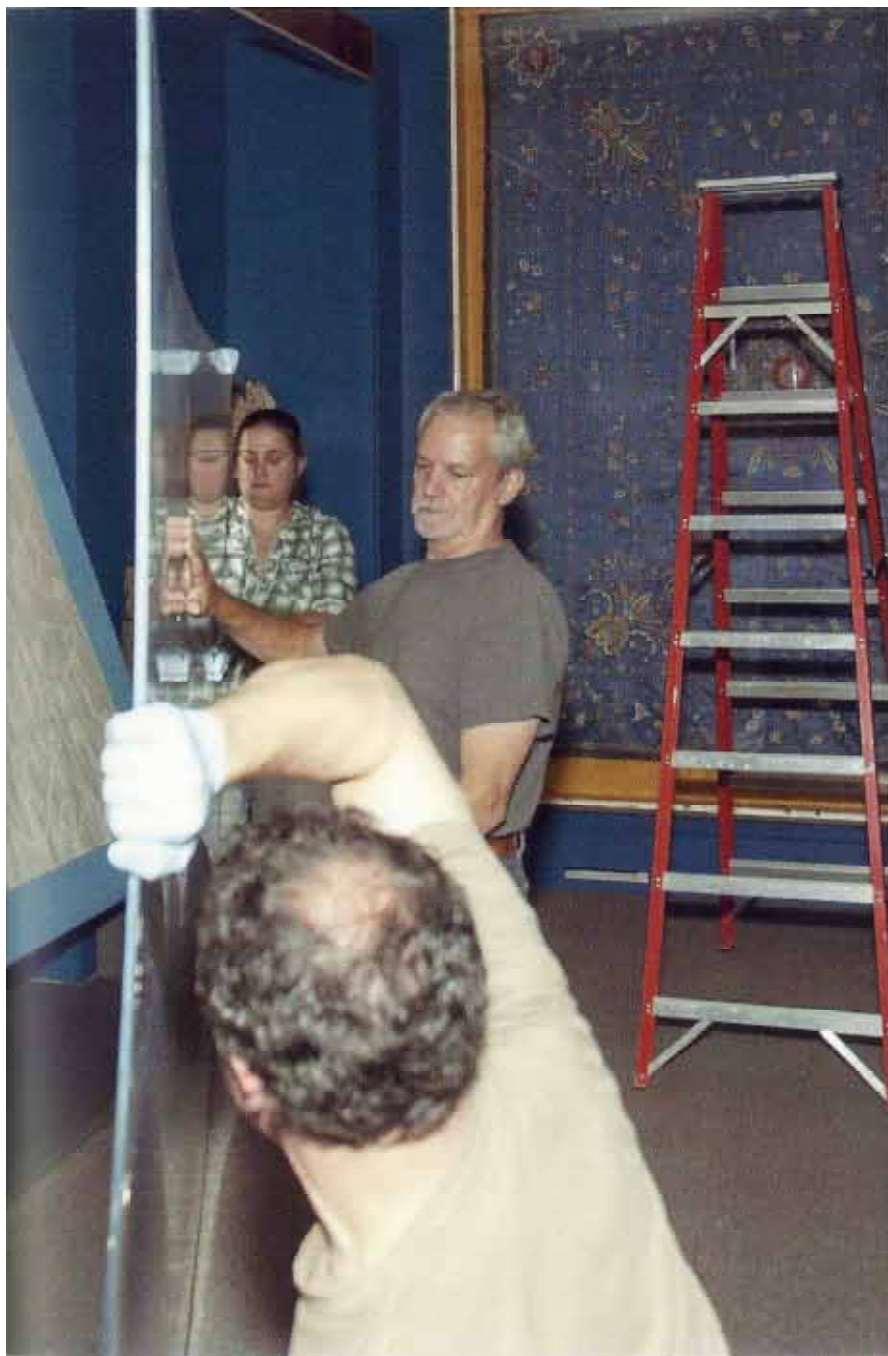
Nat and Exhibition  
Technician Kristen Willet  
carry in the first sheet of  
Optium.





Exhibition Designer Doug MacDonald screws the Optium into the niche's frame.





The second sheet is slid into place.



Kristen and Nat remove the protective film, revealing the sailor's suit and duffel.









The Optium is in place but invisible to the viewer. The seam between the two sheets nearly disappears.

Notice the reflectivity of an inferior sheet of plexi in the adjacent case.

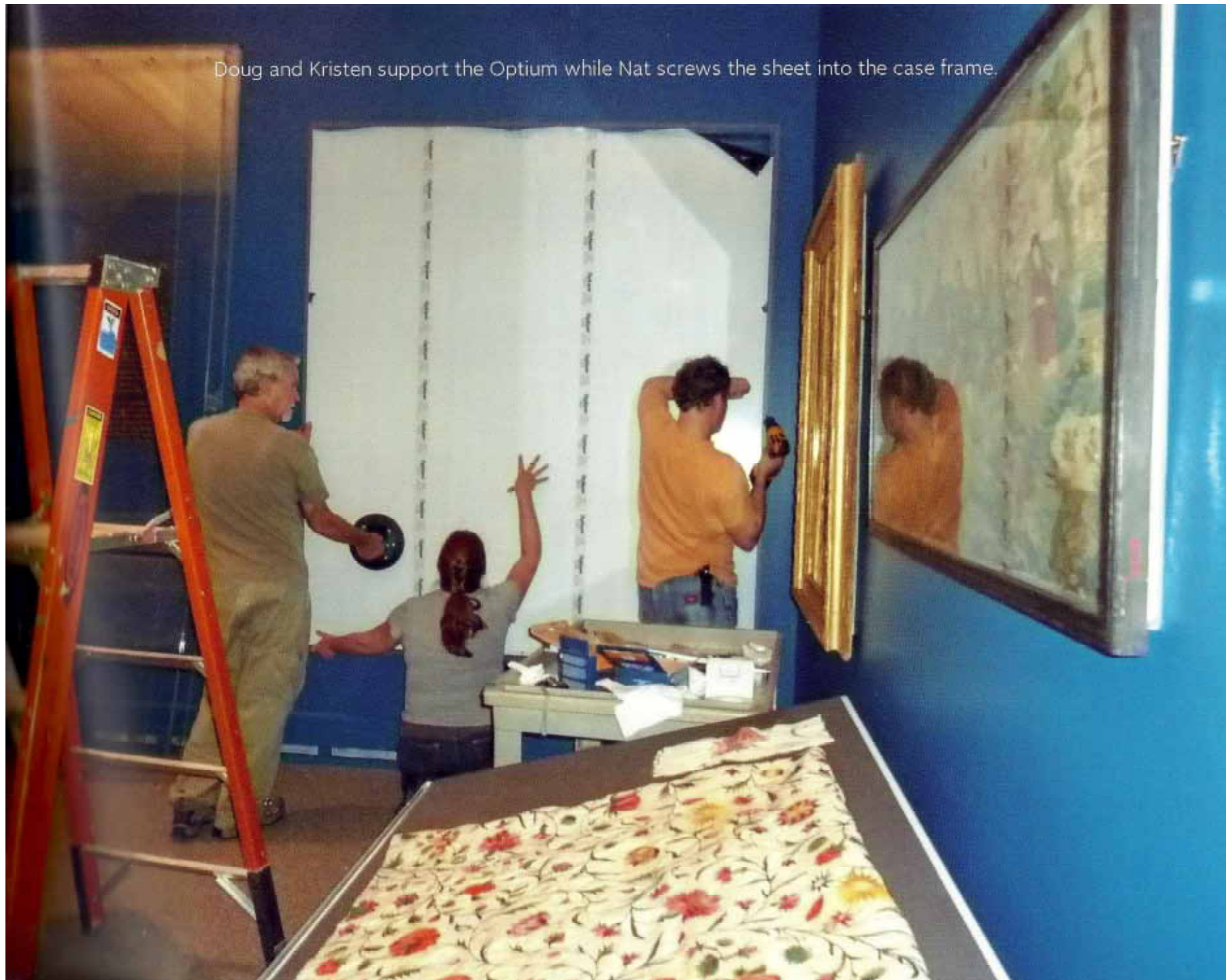








Doug and Kristen support the Optium while Nat screws the sheet into the case frame.



Joy installs a pair of bed curtains in the wall case that will receive a third sheet of Optium.







After securing the top edge, Nat and Kristen remove the protective layer from the Optium.











