

Nicole Wade (she/her)

Senior Collections Manager and Registrar

Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia

anw9s@virginia.edu

BA, Anthropology & Archaeology, University of Virginia

MA, Anthropology, University of New Mexico

Graduate Certificate in Museum Collections Management & Care, George Washington University

Nicole is a proud first-generation college student who has cared for museum collections at the University of Virginia for over 17 years, first at the Fralin Museum of Art (2007 – 2012) and at the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of UVA since 2012. As Senior Collections Manager and Registrar at Kluge-Ruhe, she is responsible for the ethical care and stewardship of the museum’s growing permanent collection, library, and archive. She regularly advises peer institutions on best practices in stewardship, housing, transporting, and installing Indigenous Australian art.

Recently, Nicole designed the mounts for and oversaw the care, conservation and installation of nearly 90 bark paintings in the monumental [Madayin exhibition](#) which travelled the United States from 2022 to 2025. She has collaborated on multiple successful [consultation and repatriation projects](#) that resulted in the return of secret and sacred items to Indigenous Australian communities. She is passionate about repatriation and reconnecting Indigenous Australian communities to their cultural heritage items held in the Kluge-Ruhe’s permanent collection through consultation and active custodianship.

Wade, N. (2024). Partnership, Collaboration, and Community Engagement: Reflections on Applied Repatriation in a Small Museum. *Pacific Arts: The Journal of the Pacific Arts Association*, 24(1). <http://dx.doi.org/10.5070/PC224164362> Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/08r6w8pn>