

# Piloting Photogrammetry in Digital Libraries

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# Who are we?

- ◆ University of North Texas
- ◆ Digital Projects Unit - Digitization Lab
- ◆ Two main repositories: The Portal to Texas History and the UNT Digital Library



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS®

Digital  
Library

# We typically do 2D digitization of flat materials



Photographs



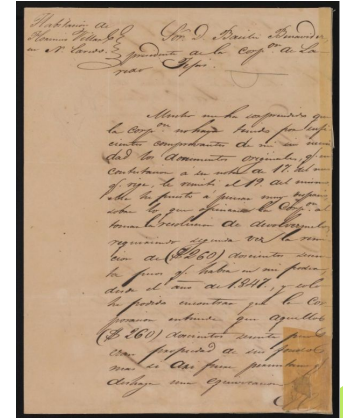
Magazines



Books



Reports

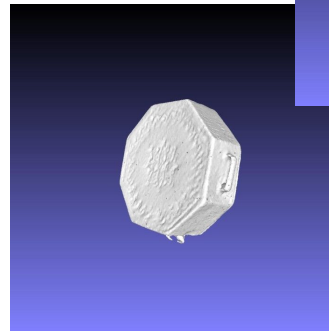
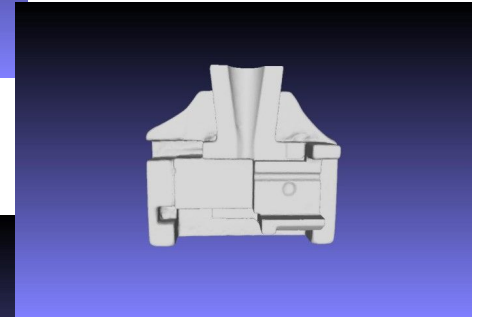
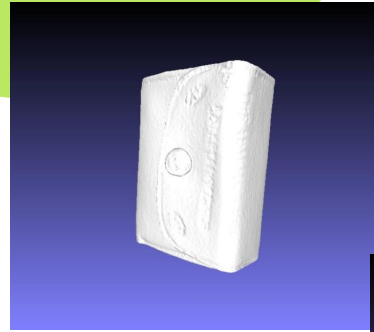


Documents

# Past 3D Work

- ◆ 3D Laser Scanning
- ◆ Lacked texture for laser scanned models
- ◆ Explore possibility of creating photorealistic 3D models with color and texture

—▶ Photogrammetry!



# Materials: Texas Fashion Collection



Chinese Lotus shoe

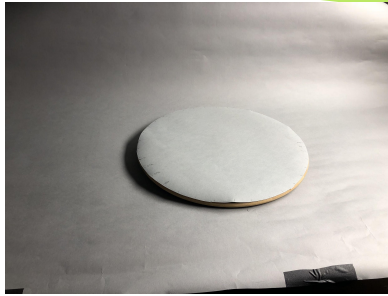


Yves Saint Laurent Black Pump



Judith Lieber Handbag

2 tutorials + 2 shooting methods + 2 software programs



**Agisoft**



**lynda.com**



**RECAP 360**

# Supplies

## Stuff we had:

- Canon 5Ds SLR camera
  - 50 mm lens, batteries, battery charger, memory card, card reader
- 2 North Light 900w HID copy lights
- 2 small Fotodiox small lights
- Really Right Stuff tripod
- Gray paper
- Large 360 degree circle (printed)
- Miscellaneous: gaffer's tape, foam wedges, etc.
- Agisoft (free 30 day trial of pro version)

## Stuff we didn't have:

- Lazy susan (Bed Bath and Beyond bamboo, covered in gray paper)
- One month subscription to Recap 360



# Two tutorials

Cultural Heritage Imaging (CHI)

*Photogrammetry Examples and 3D Information*



Lynda.com

*3D Scanning with a Camera - Kacie Hultgren*





# First Shooting Method: Walk Around

## Pros

- ◆ Good for stationary objects
- ◆ Theoretically helps software match images better



## Cons

- ◆ Harder on the photographer
- ◆ Not able to use HID lights, so had to change aperture, ISO, and shutter speed from the ideal to compensate for low ambient light

# Second Shooting Method: Lazy Susan

## Pros

- ◆ Easier on the photographer
- ◆ Standard background is theoretically easier to mask out
- ◆ Able to use our copy lights (at our Phase One setup)
- ◆ Opportunity for tethering

## Cons

- ◆ Required us to buy a lazy susan and mark with 10 degree intervals



# Shooting: Lessons Learned

- ◆ Tripods are essential
- ◆ In addition to the three recommended heights, need to get good shots of top and bottom of object
- ◆ Consistent background is important. Everything that is not the object should be the same color
- ◆ Consider multiple lights (we wanted more than two heavy duty lights)
- ◆ Consider tethering
- ◆ Preferred Lazy Susan method



# First Software: Autodesk Recap 360

## Pros

- ◆ All automated
- ◆ Uses cloud computing so it doesn't tie up your computer



## Cons

- ◆ Subscription service, not a one time purchase
- ◆ No free trial will let you make a photogrammetry model
- ◆ Have to use/purchase cloud credits each time it processes images into a model
- ◆ Less control over processing of images and model creation
- ◆ Liked our Recap model less

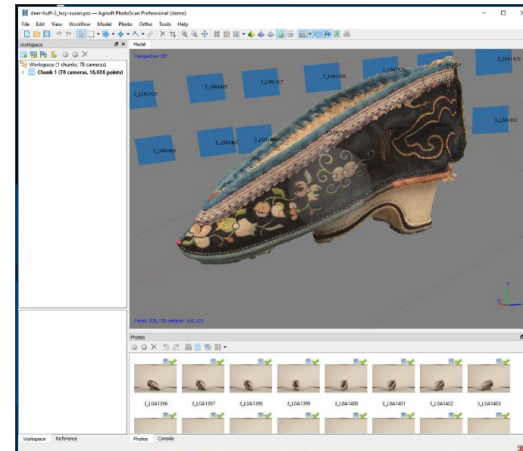
# Second Software: Agisoft

## Pros

- ◆ Free 30 day trial of Pro version
- ◆ One time purchase
- ◆ More control over processing decisions
- ◆ We liked our Agisoft models better

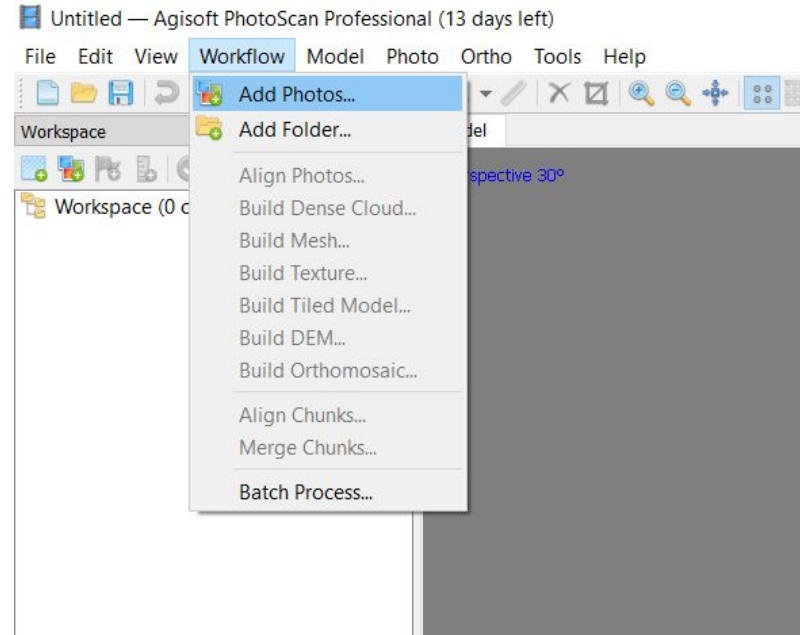
## Cons

- ◆ Uses computer's memory and storage (can be taxing)
- ◆ Steep learning curve

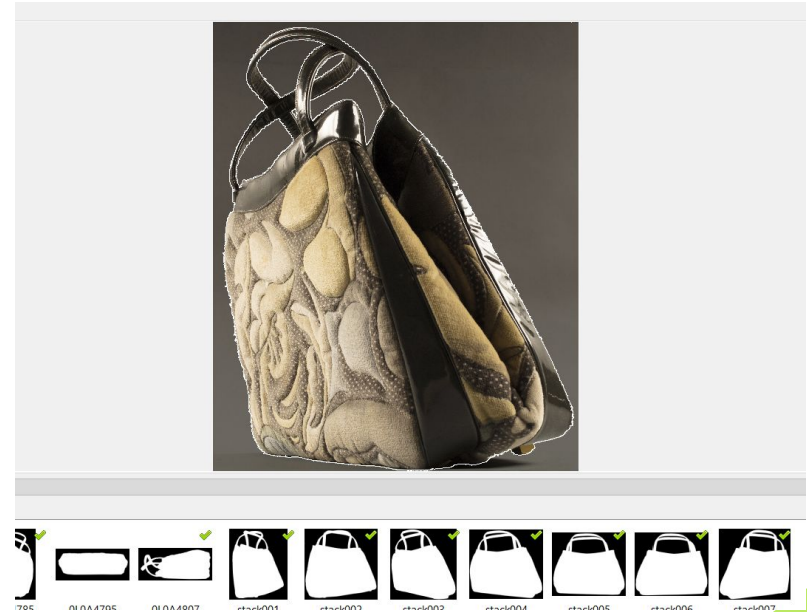


# Agisoft Processing - Convert and Add

- ◆ Convert images if shoot in RAW
- ◆ We often cropped to take out unwanted background elements
- ◆ Add Photos to Agisoft project

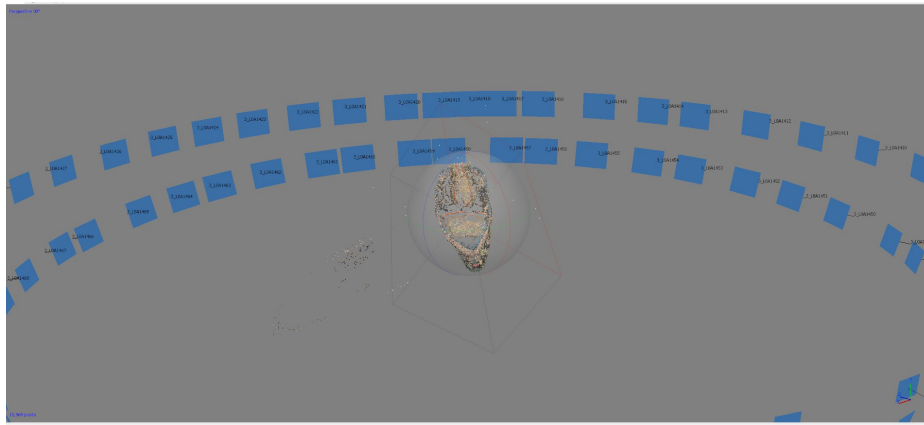
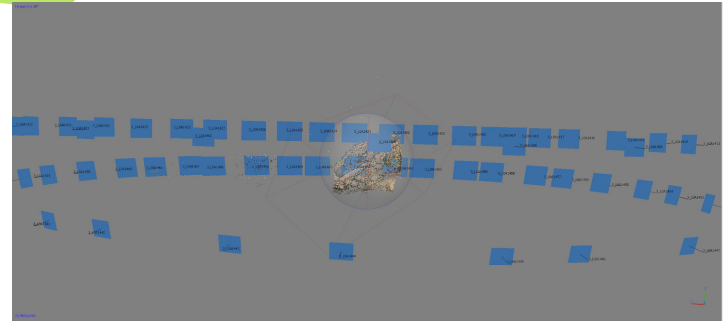
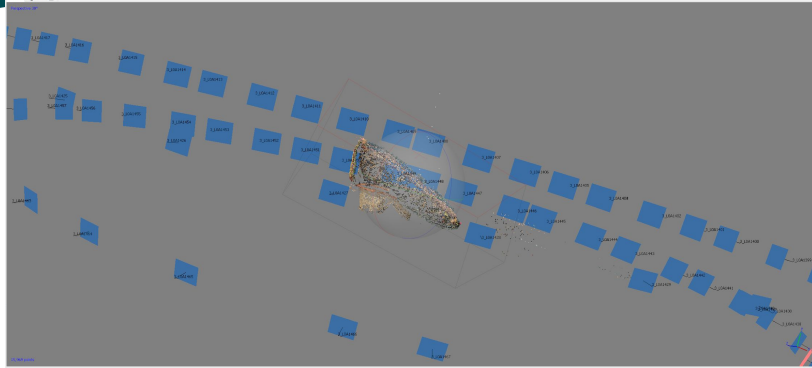


# Agisoft Processing - Masking Images

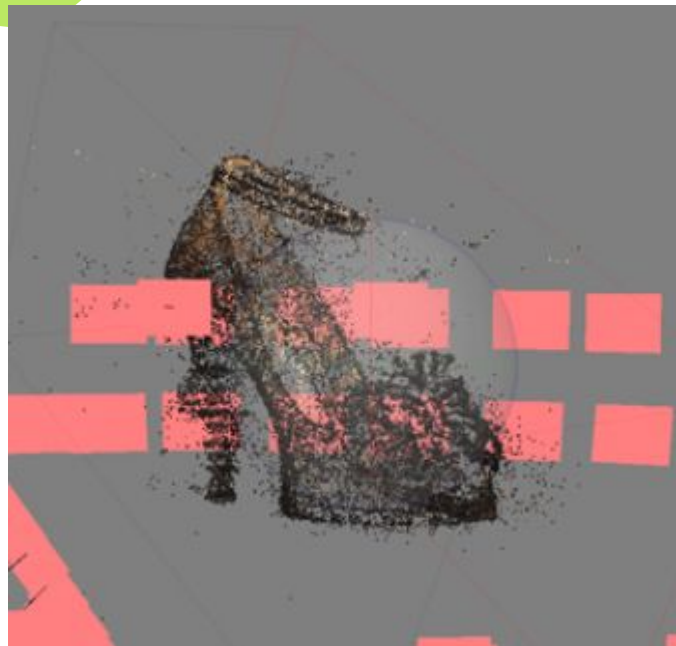
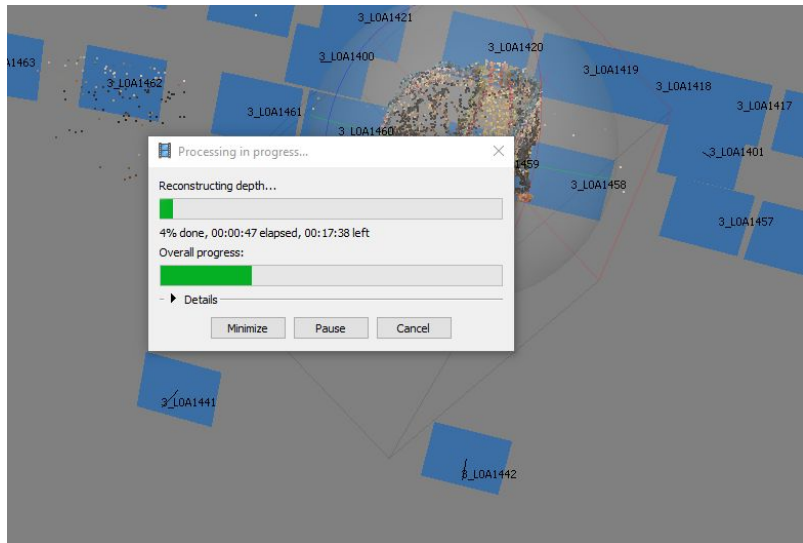




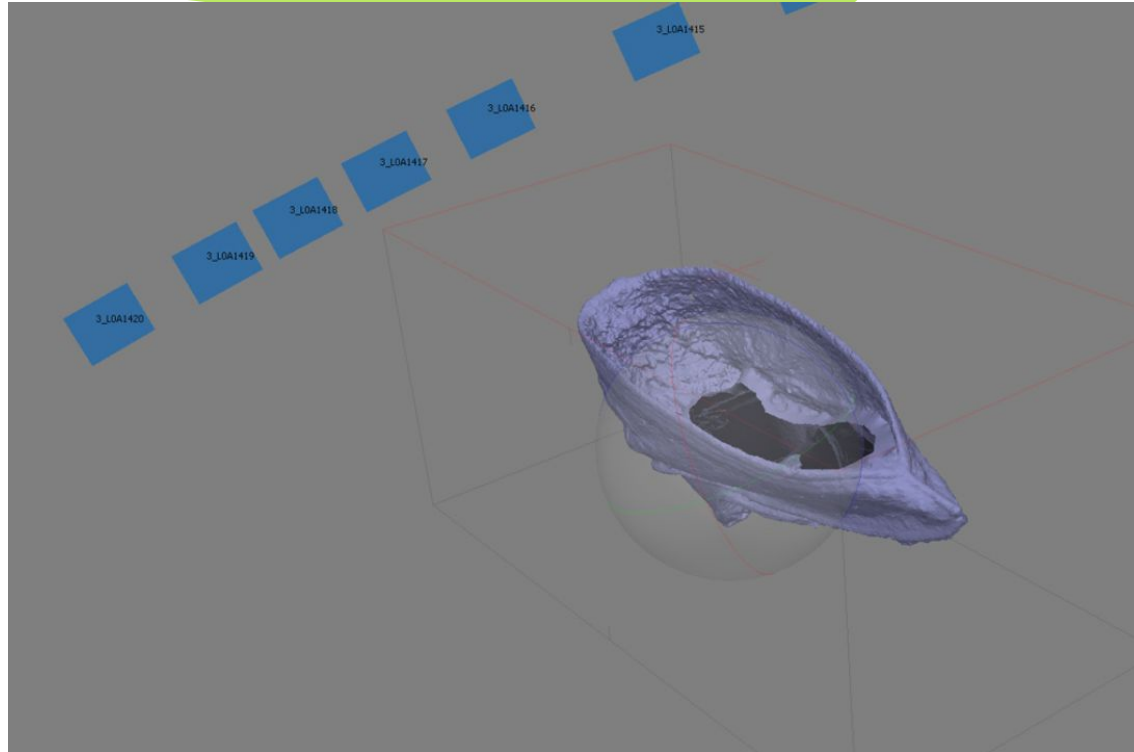
# Agisoft Processing - Align Photos



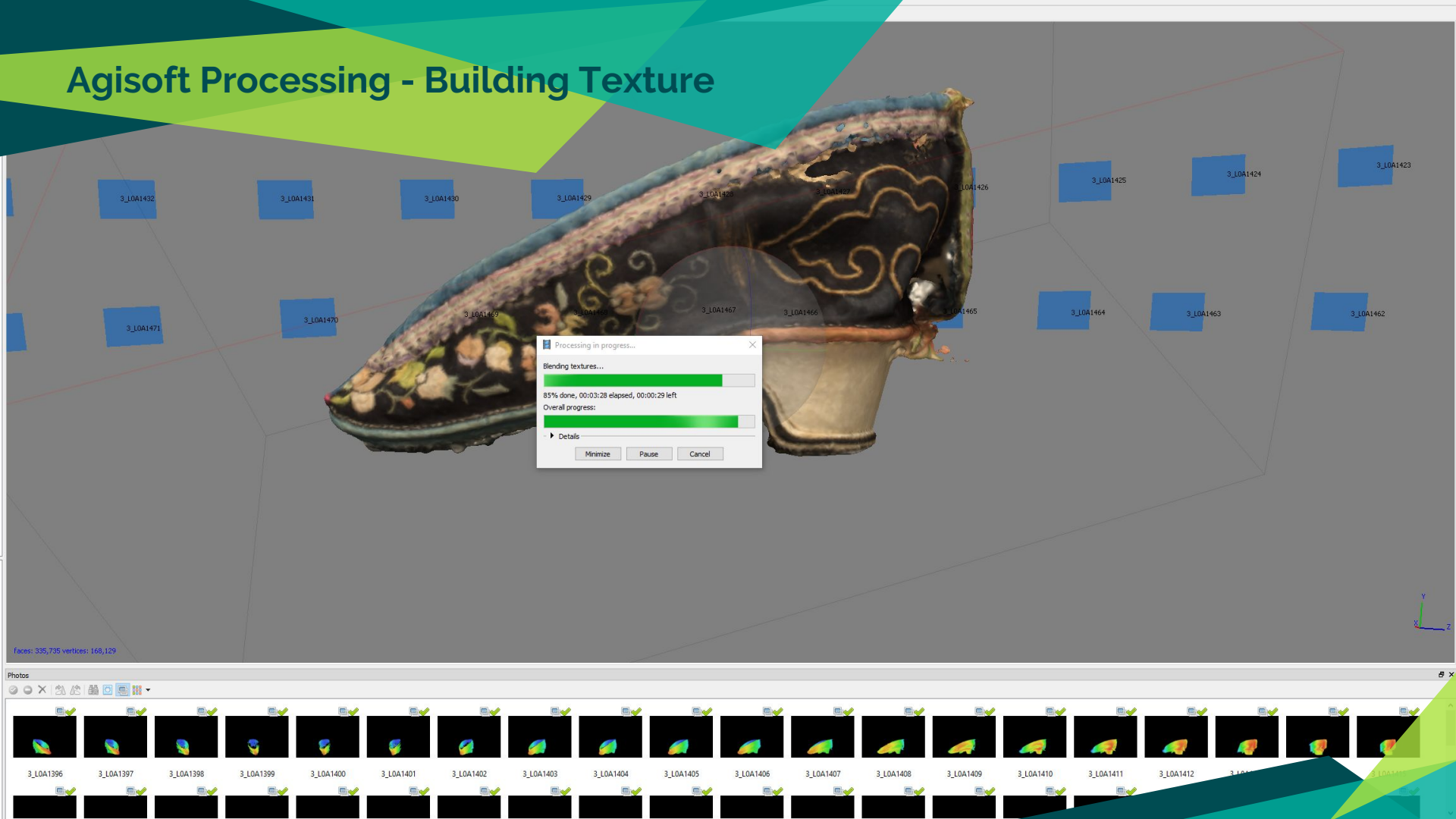
# Processing - Build Dense Point Cloud



# Agisoft Processing - Build Mesh

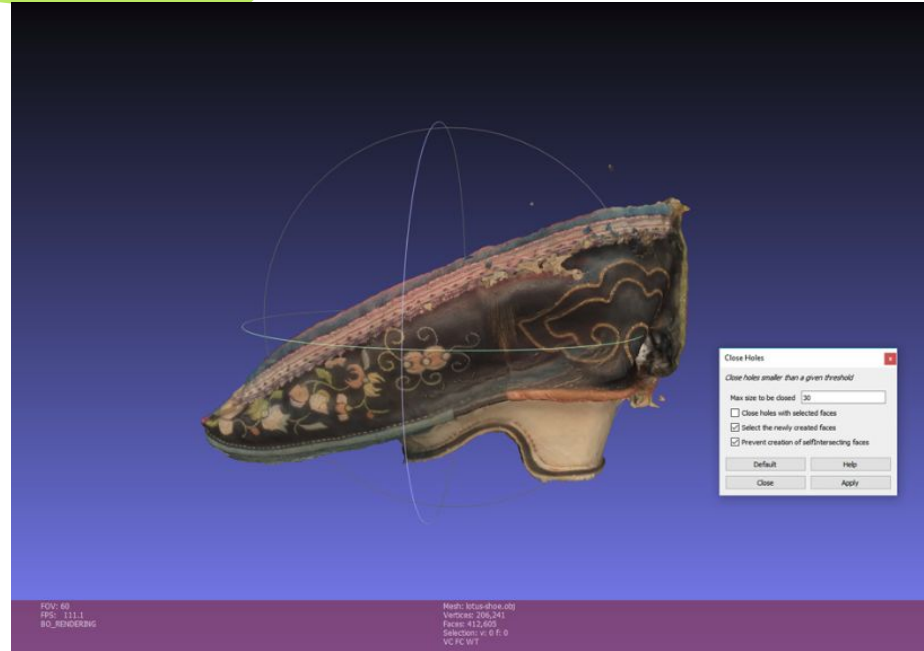


# Agisoft Processing - Building Texture



# Processing - Output and Clean Up

- ◆ Export as OBJ
- ◆ Any remaining holes or texture problems can be edited in MeshLab or Meshmixer



# Processing Tips

## Chunking

Working in small batches can help get more accurate models.

## Background

For ease in masking later, use a simple background. Masking is the most time consuming part.

## Image Alignment

If the images are not aligned correctly, you will not get a good model at the end.

## Image Organization

Don't reorganize images on your computer after you start a job. The program will lose the path to the image.

## Computing Time

Expect to spend time waiting for jobs to process. Dense Point Cloud seems to take the longest.

## Patience

Be prepared to do a lot of trial and error.

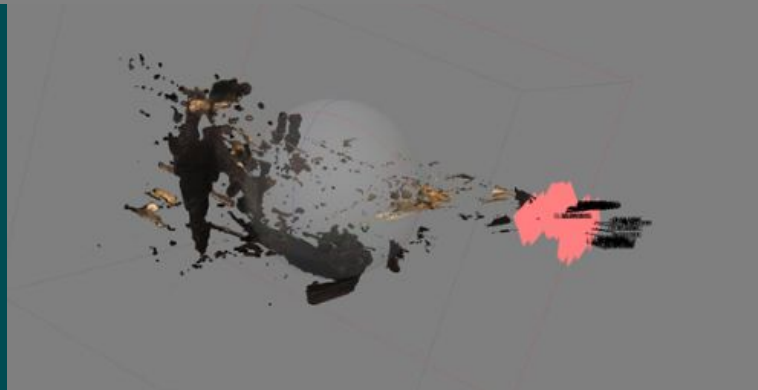
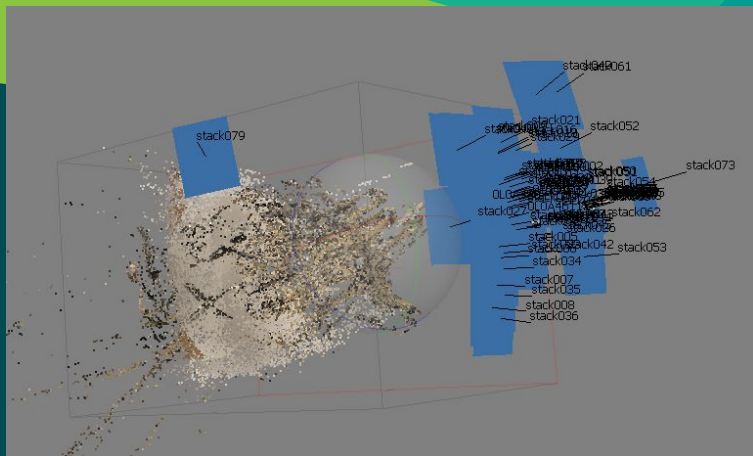
# Our Method of Metadata, Upload, and View

- ◆ Metadata describes the 3D Model instead of the object
- ◆ PNGs of model for use with the current viewer in our systems (cannot manipulate 3D model)
- ◆ GIF of the model
- ◆ Model files available for download in RAW and finished forms
- ◆ Readme file of the process



# Lessons Learned

- ◆ The objects we thought would be easy were not so easy (lots of depth and glare)
- ◆ Photogrammetry is a time consuming process, which makes it costly.
- ◆ To make it a regular piece of digitization work we would need: more lights, a real backdrop, automated turntable, Agisoft license, and dedicated space and equipment.
- ◆ Given time, cost, and equipment needs, it is important to consider if a 3D model adds significantly more value for researchers than 2D photos for a given object or collection.



- CHI Cultural Heritage Imaging for Photogrammetry Tutorial Videos
- Lynda.com
- Annette Baker at Texas Fashion Collection for materials loaning
- SlidesCarnival for presentation theme “Escalus”
- Bloopers provided by the presenters

# Thank You/Credits