

SAVE THE DATE

Florence, Auditorium al Duomo and Palazzo Coppini, 1 – 3 March 2018

International Conference of ICOMOS

In cooperation with the *Fondazione Romualdo del Bianco* in Florence,
With the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee of *Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration* and the German National Scientific Committee of *Conservation and Restoration of Wall Paintings and Architectural Surfaces*,
With the partnership of the *European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisation E.C.C.O.*

And the support of

The Italian and German Professional Associations of Conservator-Restorers A.R.I. *Associazione Restauratori d'Italia* and VDR *Verband der Restauratoren*,
The National Italian Conservation Institute *Opificio delle Pietre Dure OPD* in Florence,

The *Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut*,

And other international Institutions of Heritage Studies and Preservation.

Conservation Ethics Today:

Are our Conservation-Restoration Theories and Practice ready for the 21st Century?

The conference will focus on the relationships between theory and practice of conservation-restoration in the field of heritage preservation, considering the positions and developments of the twentieth century for the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Particular attention will be directed to architectural heritage, its surroundings and its fittings, such as architectural surfaces and wall paintings, stuccos, decorative elements in stone, majolica, ceramic, etc. Contributions and discussions will deal with experiences and perspectives of conservation-restoration, especially in European heritage preservation. This is due to the conference's involvement in the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) program 2018. A critical look from outside Europe is welcomed and expected to provide important input and fresh perspectives.

The ethics of conservation concern issues of the relationship between objects and actors, i.e. between our heritage and the professionals dealing with heritage preservation. Ethical principles as a basis for developing appropriate methods and techniques of conservation-restoration are required. These applied ethics are closely connected with the professional ethics of conservator-restorers and of all other specialists involved in the preservation of architectural heritage. The conference will pay attention to improving interdisciplinary cooperation between conservator-restorers, architects, craftsmen, art historians, building archaeologists, conservation scientists, and all others active in this field. With reference to everyday practice, the discussion will deal with the specific professional profiles and tasks of all these specialists and try to increase the quality of communication and co-operation.

The conference contributions shall establish a close contact between theoretical positions and their significance for the practice of conservation-restoration. The conference aims to offer a forum for discussion between professionals with various specializations, including students and young professionals active in the field of heritage preservation. Florence presents excellent potential for visits on site, with the possibility to evaluate famous conservation-restorations of the last decades and to study current conservation-restoration projects. In this context, one of the central issues will focus on historical, ethical, and aesthetic aspects dealing with the fragment and the possibilities of integration and presentation, with reference to theories and practice of conservation-restoration in the twentieth century and the perspectives of today.

In the course of the European Year of Cultural Heritage EYCH 2018, the issues and goals of the Florence conference will be continued and deepened by various regional European workshops that focus on specific local problems and demands of conservation-restoration, optimally with historical and current case studies. The aim is to organize these workshops with the support of ICOMOS National Committees and national professional organizations. The intent of these workshops is to strengthen the European network for interdisciplinary exchange and co-operation in the field of conservation-restoration of architectural heritage, its surfaces and fittings.

A Call for Papers will follow within the next weeks, together with all organizational details. The language of the conference is English.

Draft of the timetable of the conference

Arrival in Florence on Wednesday 28 February 2018, with welcome dinner in the evening,

Conference full-time on Thursday and Friday 1 and 2 March 2018, optionally in part with parallel sessions,

Visits on site in Florence and surroundings on Saturday 3 March 2018,

Departure on Saturday evening 3 March or on Sunday 4 March 2018

Poster Session on Ethics of Conservation-Restoration for students:

A Call for Posters (session to be connected to the Florence conference and to the various European workshops) will be distributed to all European Universities and Institutes with study courses on Conservation-Restoration.

Publication of the Papers:

The Fondazione Romualdo del Bianco offers an electronic publication of the Florence conference papers (after the conference, including also the results of discussions, the poster session, etc.).

Ursula Schaedler-Saub

ICOMOS Germany, Speaker of the National Scientific Committee of *Conservation and Restoration of Wall Paintings and Architectural Surfaces*

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