News in Conservation



The e-paper from the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works

Issue 43, August 2014

The 2014 IIC Keck Award finalists announced!



LONDON, HONG KONG — IIC is delighted to announce the shortlisted finalists for the 2014 Keck Award. The announcement of the winner of the 2014 Keck Award will be made at the end of the 2014 IIC Congress which will take place in Hong Kong in September 2014. The IIC Keck Award is presented every two years — in Caroline Keck's words — to the individual or group who has in the opinion of the Council contributed most towards promoting public understanding and appreciation of the accomplishments of the conservation profession.

The finalist projects are listed here in the alphabetical order of the application's title:

IIC 2014 Hong Kong Congress -

Posters and student posters now available See page 16 for details

Heritage without Borders -

Alex Cantrill on working in Kosovo to teach conservation skills Feature from page 8

Cultural landscape conservation and rural developments -

Kuanghan Li, talks about the Global Heritage Fund programme in Guizhou, China Read the feature from page 13

Keck Award finalists -

Shortlist of projects for the 2014 Keck Award announced Full feature on page 1

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The Chinese Freemason's Lantern Public Conservation Project (Royal British Columbia Museum, Canada)

In 2013, the Royal BC Museum featured the conservation of the Chinese Freemason's Lantern in a temporary exhibit "Tradition in Felicities: Celebrating 155 years of Victoria's Chinatown" as part of an initiative to preserve and represent immigrant history in British Columbia. The exceptional demands of this conservation treatment required a cross-disciplinary approach and lent itself well to a public conservation program.

A modified conservation laboratory was constructed in the gallery, surrounded by text and graphic panels that described and illustrated the process. Under the direction of Project Conservator, Lisa Bengston, a crew of six conservators, three conservation interns, and seven volunteers completed stabilization and restoration treatments as well as materials analyses five days a week for seven months. A remarkable digitally-animated representation of the lantern in pristine condition was created and exhibited on an adjacent computer screen, providing an accurate interpretation of the lit and moving lantern, a state of restoration that was inappropriate for the actual lantern.

The public showed great enthusiasm for the conservation work and asked probing questions, providing an extraordinary opportunity to enlighten a broad audience to the work of conservators. Visitors were also keen to provide information and anecdotes relating to the lantern, adding to the curatorial record. Surveys completed during the project were extremely positive and encouraging for future public conservation programs. The Royal BC Museum highlighted this public conservation project in its publications and promotional materials as well as online. Lisa Bengston should be recognized for her valuable contributions to this project.

The public conservation of the Chinese Freemason's Lantern will be showcased at the 2014 IIC Congress through a poster produced by Lisa Bengston and Kasey Lee.

The Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Programme (Birmingham Museums Trust, UK)

The Hoard programme represents a new paradigm for archaeological conservation. The idea of carrying out conservation in the public eye is not a new one. Where the Hoard programme has been unique is the intensity and regularity with which it was able to provide outreach and that the social media has gained an international audience which has been sustained over the years.

This programme also significantly differs from other archaeological projects due to the inspired decision to keep the Hoard on display throughout conservation and research, which is unlike any archaeological project before it. This has meant the collection remains high-profile and this creates synergy with the conservation outreach, to give the public a rounded sense of museum conservation front and back of house.

This programme provides an example of how conservation can drive different aspects of a project other than the conservation of the objects themselves and has acted as a catalyst to encourage public access and participation in the wider project. The Hoard has generated interest beyond its historical context to create a stronger sense of local identity and pride in the region, as demonstrated by the formation of the Mercian trail.

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Editorial

Here we are, the final countdown to the most awaited event of the conservation calendar has started and as I write, final preparations are under way in Hong Kong where the IIC Congress Committee has been working hard to ensure you'll enjoy a fabulous event.

You still have time for a very last minute booking – we'll be delighted to see you in gorgeous Hong Kong! Visit the IIC website for info on flights, hotels and programmes and as you're browsing do not forget to check out the full list of posters that's just been announced at:

https://www.iiconservation.org/congress/20 14hongkong/posters

In this issue of *NiC* Alex Cantrill talks about her work with the organization *Heritage without Borders* and in particular she talks about her involvement in Kosovo to deliver conservation and restoration training in the neighbouring cities of Mitrovica and Vushtrri.

In keeping with the Asian theme, the second feature of this issue focuses on the Guizhou region in China where Kuanghan Li, Director of the China Heritage Program with Global Heritage Fund talks about the challenges of combining cultural landscape conservation and rural developments.

We are excited to announce the finalists for this year Keck Award; you'll agree that the projects candidates this year are in many ways outstanding so regardless of the winner we'll be delighted to learn more about each one of them.

Enjoy this issue!

Barbara Borghese Editor The conservation team has not only conserved the materials to a professionally high standard, it has successfully engaged both conservation professionals, students and public audiences, and has delivered an extraordinary range of activities over a short time period, helping to raise the project profile in the UK and internationally.

The W. Brooks and Wanda Y. Fortune History Lab at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Centre (USA)

The History Lab conveys the importance of preservation to the IHS core mission, and the role staff conservators play in preserving the paper-based collections of the Indiana Historical Society Library.

It is a 1,000 sq. ft. gallery and preservation classroom adjacent to the 1,200 sq. ft. paper conservation laboratory at the IHS. Content emphasizes the importance of conserving objects of heritage and presents methods conservators use to inform treatment decisions. Using objects as the focus, the primary learning experience for the History Lab is the WHY, WHAT and HOW of conservation, learned through the four tenets Identify, Examine, Treat, and Properly Store heritage objects. In doing so, conservation is valued as a means to preserve cultural heritage, and guests better understand what they can do to preserve objects in their own collections.

Guests view content as a traditional gallery experience and interact on their own and with a lab trained facilitator. The space incorporates an electronic microscope bank to explore paper and media surfaces. A flat screen video relays progressive condition issues, and electronic video pin-boards provide a large dictionary of visuals that convey historic materials, and technologies. The preservation classroom provides a hands-on mending activity for groups up to 25, using traditional mending techniques with Japanese tissue and starch pastes.

The 2014 IIC Hong Kong Congress - An Unbroken History: Conserving East Asian Works of Art and Heritage will take place from 22-26 September 2014. For further details visit: https://www.iiconservation.org/congress

News in Brief...

Altamira caves to test limited visitors approach



A replica of a rock painting from Altamura Cave

ALTAMIRA, SPAIN—The Cave of Altamira is a cave in northern Spain containing Upper Palaeolithic paintings featuring drawings and polychrome rock paintings of wild mammals including bison and horses and human hands dating some 22,000 years ago.

The cave was closed to visitors in 2002 due to concerns over the damaging effects visitors were having over the fragile art painted on the cave's walls. Researchers had in-fact observed the growth of algae-like mold on the cave walls.

Following the closure, visitors were offered instead access to a nearby museum that contains an exact replica of part of the cave, including its main painted chamber.

Now Altamira is being partially reopened

causing a revival of the debate over whether such a prehistoric site can withstand the presence of modern-day visitors. As part of a new study, since February 2014 five randomly chosen visitors a week have been allowed to enter the cave wearing special protective suits. The goal of the study is to determine "if there is a form of public visiting that is compatible with the adequate conservation of Altamira," José Antonio Lasheras, director of the Altamira museum, told <u>The New York Times</u> in an interview. The results of the investigation are due in September.

Some scientists are concerned that the experiment will endanger the rock art in order to promote tourism. "All the data indicate the fragility of the cave and its propensity to suffer a fungal infection if it is opened to visits," said Cesáreo Sáiz Jiménez, a research professor at the Spanish National Research Council.

Golconda fort faces threat from land speculation

HYDERABAD - The fabled fort of Golconda, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, is facing one of the most insidious attacks in its 600-year history.

Golconda (sometimes spelled as Golkonda) was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Golconda which flourished in the 14th to 16th century and remains one of India's most magnificent fortress complexes.

In recent weeks, two building developers have express interest in plots amounting to about 35 acres lying between the inner fort and the tombs of the Golconda kings.

Elsewhere in the fort city, land is available for sale at prices which are sure to attract more interest.



A view of the Fort of Golconda

©CC-BY-SA-2.5 Bobsodium

Local authorities have shown little interest in regulating such activities with long-term residents also starting to profit from unregulated real estate deals. Existing laws to prevent construction in or around historical sites, and the rule that building plans have to be cleared by local authorities are being openly flouted.

Responsibility of the site is fragmented; the fort occupies about 4 sq. km, but only a fourth of this is in the charge of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Its job is to protect the fort and the 5-km-long outer wall while the tombs outside are looked after by the Andhra Pradesh Department of Archaeology. To complicate matters further there is also a long-term controversy surrounding the ownership of the site.

The fort itself shows signs of neglect and decay with very little in terms of preservation planning for the future. State Director of Archaeology V.V. Krishna Sastry said: "New legislation and more money is necessary for better conservation. Now archaeologists do not have the powers to stop any construction or building activity in the vicinity of historic monuments and sites. There should be a law providing for a free zone for effective protection of monuments."

New study looks at Leonardo's rate of decay

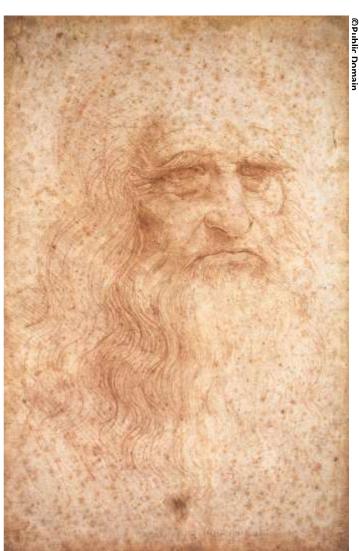
ROME, KRAKOW – An international team of scientists from Italy and Poland has developed a new, non-destructive way to gauge degradation of ancient art on paper and documents. The study, published in the journal *Applied Physics Letters* describes how the team has come up with the new methodology while studying one of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpieces, a self-portrait drawn in red chalk on paper during the early 1500s which is in extremely poor condition.

Centuries of exposure to damaging storage conditions has led to widespread and localised degradation of the paper with yellow and brown discolouration which is reducing the contrast between the image and the paper substrate.

The team was tasked with determining whether the degradation process has now slowed with appropriate conservation conditions — or if the aging process is continuing at an unacceptable rate.

The work focuses on developing an approach to identify and quantify the concentration of light-absorbing molecules known as chromophores in ancient paper, the culprit behind the "yellowing" of the cellulose within ancient documents and works of art.

Yellowing occurs when "chromophores within cellulose absorb the violet and blue range of visible light and largely scatter the yellow and red portions — resulting in the characteristic yellow-brown hue," said Olivia Pulci, a professor in the Physics Department at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. By determining the concentration of chromophores within paper using a reflectance spectroscopy setup to obtain optical reflectance spectra of paper samples in the near-



Leonardo da Vinci self-portrait

infrared, visible, and near-ultraviolet wavelength range it is possible to establish the degradation rate of the object. Once reflectance data is gathered, the optical absorption spectrum of cellulose fibres that form the sheet of paper can be calculated using special spectroscopic data analysis.

This approach will allow the evaluation of the state of degradation of works on paper with the possibility of measuring and quantify the concentrations of chromophores in cellulose fibres.

Mexico Mayan site gets double heritage status

MEXICO CITY - The southern Mexico Mayan ruins of Calakmul have become the country's first site to receive the "mixed" World Heritage designation from the United Nations. The designation cites both the pyramids of the ancient city-state and hundreds of thousands of acres of well-preserved tropical forest that surrounds them. The site is located in the central/southern portion of the Yucatan Peninsula, in southern Mexico and includes the remains of the important Maya city Calakmul, set deep in the tropical forest of the Tierras Bajas. The city played a key role in the history of this



region for more than 12 centuries and is characterized A View of a pyramid at Calakmul, Mexico by well-preserved structures providing a vivid picture of life in an ancient Maya capital.

Meanwhile authorities say the heritage designation for another Mexican site, the "floating gardens" of Xochimilco, could be in danger. The man-made islands created by the Aztecs have been hit by pollution and urban sprawl, endangering the endemic salamanders known as axolotls. The director of the country's National Institute of Anthropology and History says there is a plan to rescue Xochimilco. But Teresa Franco said Wednesday that it could be at risk "if guick and efficient action isn't taken.

Fontana di Trevi open for business during restoration



The Trevi Fountain before the start of the restoration project

and see conservation and restoration in action.

Funds for the conservation have been provided by Italian fashion house Fendi and work is scheduled to be completed in 2015 costing an estimated 2 million Euros (£1.5 million).

The conservation of the Trevi Fountain is one of a series of interventions funded by Fendi as part of a philanthropic project called "Fendi for Fountains".

Recently other fashion houses have been involved in similar conservation projects with Dior funding conservation in Versailles (News in Conservation, Issue 39, https://www.iiconservation.org/node/4482) and Prada sponsoring the restoration of Giorgio Vasari's Last Supper (News in Conservation, Issue 40, February 2014 https://www.iiconservation.org/node/4590).

ROME - Visitors to the Trevi Fountain in Rome are currently given the chance to see the monument up close like never before.

The fountain has undergoing been restoration work and authorities have decided to promote the work as part of the visiting experience allowing tourists to through via a bridge leading to the heart the monument

Isis destroys Iraq shrines

MOSUL – Recently posted images on various social media websites appear to show the destruction of about a dozen places of worship across northern Iraq, in areas recently taken over by extremist militants belonging to the group known as ISIS (the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria).

When in June 2014 the extremist Sunni group ISIS took over territories in northern Iraq, edicts were issued which included orders to destroy Shiite graves and shrines and other ancient relics — orders which appear to have been carried out, with six sites destroyed. Rumour and fears over the possible fate of the region's even more ancient cultural heritage have since spread fuelled by more reports of destruction. The area is rich in cultural heritage sites with UNESCO World Heritage Site Hatra only a few kilometres away.

Mosul was the heartland of the Assyrian Empire, which ruled the Middle East in the first millennium BC.; the ruins of ancient cities such as Ashur and Nimrud, are also located nearby.



Statue of Hercules found at Hatra, Iraq

Scottish project to monitor coastal archaeology is honoured with two awards



EDINBURGH - A project to monitor important archaeological remains around Scotland's coastline won two awards at the prestigious British Archaeological Awards, which took place at the British Museum in London in July 2014.

Named the Best Community Engagement Archaeology Project, Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk Project (SCHARP) was developed by Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion (SCAPE) and part-funded by Historic Scotland.

SCAPE developed the project because their previous work had identified a number of monuments which are at risk as Scotland's coastline changes.

They developed a purpose-built app to enlist people who visit, live or work on the coast to contribute their own observations about the coastline. The app was named the Best Archaeological Innovation at the awards ceremony.

The three-year project will run until 2015 and is funded and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, the Crown Estate and the University of St Andrews.

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs said: "I am delighted that this valuable project has been recognised with this prestigious award. Innovative and practical, SCHARP's app has engaged the public, allowing them to interact with and contribute to the important work of Scotland's archaeological community."

Tom Dawson, of SCAPE said: "This project's philosophy is that eroding coastal heritage provides opportunities for anyone to enjoy and benefit from taking part in archaeological and historical exploration and discovery. I am honoured that the work of our team, and of the many thousands of people who engaged with us through the app, has been recognised through this award."

For more information visit <u>www.historic-scotland.gov.uk</u>

You can found out more about The SCAPE Trust by visiting www.scapetrust.org

Heritage without Borders in postwar Kosovo

by Alex Cantrill



Heritage without Borders (HwB) started in 2010 as a unique social enterprise working in countries where resources and expertise are scarce or lacking. A UK registered charity since 2012, they work to build capacity in heritage skills and support heritage projects in situations of poverty and following conflict and disaster. HwB also provides valuable work experience for students and professionals from the heritage sector. The teams of volunteer's support and work alongside local communities to understand, interpret, use and conserve their heritage.

In October of this year, I was lucky enough to be part of a team of 4 conservators working on behalf of HwB in Kosovo. Working in conjunction with one of their partner organisations, Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB), the HwB team were in Kosovo to deliver conservation and restoration training in the neighbouring cities of Mitrovica and Vushtrri.

The training course was being run as one of CHwB's "Regional Restoration Camps". CHwB, who coordinated the project, is a non-governmental organisation, which has been working in the Balkans for over 15 years.

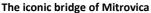
Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008. It is bordered by the Republic of Macedonia to the south,



Albania to the west and Montenegro to the northwest. During the conflict of the late 1990's, roughly a million ethnic Albanians fled or were forcefully driven from Kosovo. More than 11,000 people were killed and some 3,000 people are still missing. The city of Mitrovica became a major flashpoint in post-war Kosovo. It remains a divided city with the northern section mainly populated by Serbs and the southern section by ethnic Albanians. The river lbar divides the two sides and an iconic bridge remains barricaded with rubble as a visual symbol that the city and its citizens remain divided and at conflict. There are two other bridges linking the town's two sides. These can be crossed by vehicles and those that do, stop half way to swap over their Serbian or Republic of Kosovo licence plates under the watchful eye of the KFOR peace keeping and Kosovo force. Many citizens though have never crossed to the other side of the river since the end of the war in 1999.

Ethnicity, identity, conflict and resolution are all powerfully current issues in Kosovo. The recent wars have damaged and endangered the country's heritage and deeply affected its peoples' relation to it.







The bridge is barricaded by rubble on the north side

The Museum of Mitrovica was split between two sites (one on either side of the river) during the war. Almost all documentation for its objects was lost when the building that housed the museum on the north bank was burnt down. Objects in the museum in the south part of the city are not only mostly disassociated, but have been moved around, damaged and neglected as a result of the war and are in desperate need of conservation.



Vushtrri Bridge, 'the bridge with no river'

The town of Vushtrri is home to an important historic bridge dated to approximately the 14th century. Despite its historic importance, the bridge has lost most of its significance for the community because the river was redirected years ago.

Within the framework of the Restoration Camp, CHwB ran a module that focused on the surveying, recording, and interpretation of the Vushtrri Bridge.

Back at Mitrovica Museum, HwB took responsibility for the delivery of an object conservation module. The aims of this module were:

To develop preventive

- conservations skills in the region.
- To promote cooperation and networking between heritage organisations, professionals and even students within the region.
- To complete basic conservation cleaning on a range of artefacts from the Mitrovica City Museum.
- To raise the profile of conservation within Balkan museum practice.

The participants to the camp came from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. Backgrounds and previous experience in museum environments varied across the group, which included architectural and archaeological students, practicing conservators and museum staff from the Museum of Mitrovica.

HwB's main focus for the course was to introduce preventive conservation concepts and practices, alongside building theoretical knowledge in material science, deterioration mechanisms and condition assessing. Practical activities were used to cement this theoretical knowledge. The course took the format of lectures, demonstrations and group-based practical work.



Discussing labelling methods with the metals group



Nikki Harrison (HwB) guides a participant through the cleaning of a traditional shoe



A morning lectures about conservation ethics.



Stefanie White (HwB) leads a practical session on condition assessment

Participants split into material based groups at the start of the course. There was the interpretation group that would be working at Vushtrri Bridge and then four object conservation groups including metals, ceramics, textiles and organic materials. Each HwB conservator led a group based on their areas of expertise. Having previously spent two years working as a conservator for the Royal Armouries, I naturally fell into the role of leading the metals group along with a local conservator from Pristina working for CHwB.

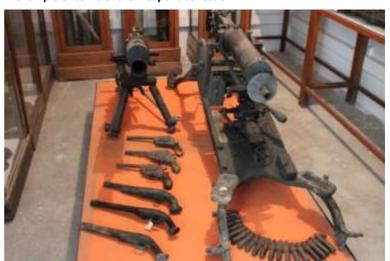
The collection at Mitrovica museum is rich in many materials and we formed our material groups around the collection's needs. There was a huge selection of metal objects including jewellery, coins and cookware but the metal objects in need of the most immediate attention was the weaponry.

The weapons collection is housed together in an area of the museum dedicated to the history of Kosovo. This space also displays clothing and personal effects of members of the Kosovo Liberation Army and civilians killed in the war. It is a room with a powerful atmosphere that can be overwhelming at times, even for the museum staff. This in itself made us very aware that our approach to teaching about conservation of the weapons would need to be very different to the more matter of fact approach that would be taken back home.

In the UK we view the majority of our arms and armour collections as historical and to an extent we treat them the same as any other museum object or material type. Here in Kosovo we were dealing not only with weapons that had been in active service very recently, but we were working with and teaching people that had been directly affected by the war within which they A Display case had been used. It was a sobering thought and



An example of some of the weapons collection



one that made us question our working practices, I believe for the better.

We were keen to make sure that the weapons were treated with sensitivity and indeed the respect they deserved. It was decided that none of the modern weapons would be worked on during the camp but would be left for the museum staff to work on at their own pace. Instead the participants were taught the skills to deal with the problems that the objects had by practicing on sacrificial metal samples. Once they had learnt these skills the metals group worked on two historic swords as their final camp project. As a team, our approach for the whole course was to empower the participants with the knowledge and skills to be able to improve conditions for artefacts and to be able to implement successful collections care programmes for a variety of materials.

By the end of the camp it was really great to see the groups all working through these processes together, guiding each other through the techniques they'd learned and seeing them realize how everything we'd taught them fitted together.

Along with the skills that all the participants learnt, the Museum of Mitrovica now has a conservation plan set in place that they can begin to follow. Through our classes and group projects we were able to conserve their whole numismatic collection, numerous traditional textiles, archaeological ceramics, three pairs of traditional shoes and two swords. They now have the know-how to begin to document all of their objects and begin to build up their records again.

All information and data gathered about the museum through our teaching exercises was recorded appropriately with the specific needs of the museum in mind. This data, such as information about relative humidity, temperature and pest activity was passed onto the archivist as well as an additional CD containing templates to help them interpret all the data. They no longer have to watch helplessly as their objects deteriorate as they have the skills and confidence to carry out basic conservation cleaning techniques and to understand the



environmental factors they can manipulate in order to protect their objects both on display and in storage.

The majority of the conservation materials we used on the camp were sourced in Kosovo and all remaining were left as the basis of the Museum's new 'conservation kit'. They have details of how and where everything required can be sourced and with thanks to our local conservator from Pristina they also now have contacts and easily accessible local conservation expertise.

Despite being in Kosovo to teach, I feel that I learnt just as much as the participants. I had the opportunity to meet some fabulous people, work with a great team and experience the generosity and culture of a truly fascinating country in a way that would never be possible by other means. My time in Kosovo was wonderful and having previously worked with other non-heritage focused charities in countries such as Uganda and Mexico I would be the first to encourage someone who has the opportunity to get involved in such a project to do so. It really is life changing.

If you want to read more about this camp or about a Weapons conservation course that HwB ran on behalf of CHwB in November in Tirana, read the blogs here: http://heritagewithoutborders.org/blog/
For more information about Heritage without Borders or Cultural Heritage without Borders and their projects, visit their websites http://heritagewithoutborders.org and http://heritagewithoutborders.org and http://www.chwb.org/



Alex Cantrill gained her MA in Conservation of Historic Objects from the University of Lincoln in 2007. Since then she has gained experience of both museum conservation and private practice working for Liverpool Museums, Crick Smith, Hare & Humphreys, the Royal Armouries and Birmingham Museums Trust. Alex is currently Conservator for the Collections People Stories project at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, London and will be returning to Kosovo to take part in the 20th Regional Restoration camp in September 2014.

Preserving Changes Cultural Landscape Conservation and Rural Development in Guizhou, China

by Kuanghan Li

The foundation of the traditional Chinese social structure is largely composed of smallholder farmers. The resultant vernacular culture is rooted in the land that provides for the settlers and is strongly dependent on its natural environment. Therefore, in comparison to an urban environment, a rural



View of Dali Village - the drum tower and Saman altar is located on the high ground in the centre

settlement possesses more distinct regional cultural traits and stability under normal circumstances. In the face of aggressive urbanization and drastic rapid social changes in modern China, such stability and cultural continuation is being gravely challenged.

In 2011, the urban population of China reached an unprecedented 51.27%, marking a watershed moment where China's rural majority ceased to be so, for the first time in history

In an even more vulnerable position are the ethnic minority villages. These villages are often located in relatively remote and economically less developed areas of China, such disadvantages can at times lead to quick judgments of

a more "backward" culture as they are increasingly marginalized by the mainstream Han majority. In view of the threats, these once overlooked heritages receive increasing attention and a selected group of *Miao* and *Dong* ethnic minority villages that are located in the southwestern part of China have been added to the Chinese tentative list for World Heritage Site nomination released in January 2013. These villages have unique characteristics and are often situated in strategic natural environment that over time, shaped by the ethnic groups' cultural, historical and social contexts, formed their own exceptional historic vernacular landscapes.

It is under such context that **Global Heritage Fund** (GHF), a non-profit organization that focuses on preservation and responsible development efforts of cultural heritage sites in developing countries and regions, was invited by the Guizhou Administration of Cultural Heritage (GACH) to participate in the rural cultural landscape conservation and development project of Dali Village, one of the *Dong* ethnic minority village on the World Heritage Site tentative list, in Rongjiang County, Guizhou Province.



View of one of the "wind and rain" bridges and wooden houses

Guizhou is one of China's least developed yet culturally diverse provinces; ethnic minorities including *Miao*, *Dong*, *Yao*, *Yi*, *Zhuang*, *Buyi*, *Shui*, *Tujia*, *Gelao*, etc. account for more than 37% of the population and 55.5% of the area is designated as autonomous regions. In addition to the distinctive vernacular architecture and landscapes, these ethnic groups also display rich intangible heritages including handicrafts, traditional song and dance, costumes, festivals, rituals and beliefs, etc.

Dali is a model example of a well preserved *Dong* village that sits in the mountainous regions of southeast Guizhou. The village currently has 309 households and a total population of 1319, all of the *Dong* ethnic group. *Dong* is a relatively small ethnic group of three million in China, their villages are typically built in the mountains and along water bodies characterized by classic architecture elements including drum towers, "wind and rain" bridges (also called the "flower bridge by the locals), stilt houses, barns—all of wooden construction. The intangible cultural





Assessment of the drum tower structure

heritage are also remarkable and unique; out of which, the multi-sound part "Dong group singing" is the most outstanding item and was listed on the UNESCO humanity intangible cultural heritage list.

Dali was built during the late Ming - early Qing Dynasties (early to mid-17th Century), it is strategically located in a narrow valley and the architecture is organized around a meandering stream that flows through the center of the settlement. Along the hill sides are impressive terraced paddy fields and lush forestland with many precious protected tree species. Local housing is typically 2-3 stories high with grey tiled overhanging gable roof and decorated around the openings, roof ridge and on the beams. Around the houses are wooden barns and grain drying racks. In the center high ground stands the tallest and most revered structure of the village, the drum tower, and the sacred Saman (the local deity) altar. The village has well-developed road and water systems with 6 historic wells which still serve as the main water source for the village. 5 wooden covered bridges span over the stream at various locations connecting different parts of the village. In particular, there are 4 extant historic paved stone paths that connect Dali to surrounding These stone paths is the only villages. example of its kind found in the region,

complete with stone carvings and historic stone steles that documents the construction of these paths.

Dali village can be described to contain all of the classic *Dong* cultural elements, both tangible and intangible. However, just like many other ethnic minority villages, this once remote mountainous village is poised on the cusp of change brought about by increasing ease in traffic access and telecommunications. With changing time and lifestyles, the historic vernacular landscapes and the continuation of traditional cultural practices are being severely challenged. Though the tangible elements are generally well preserved, Dali village's traditional social structure, use of public spaces, continuation of traditional crafts and knowledge are being altered and fast vanishing. The agricultural and natural landscapes are also threatened by expanding construction activities and pollution. Vanishing historic vernacular landscapes and diminishing cultural identities can lead to increasingly weakening rural community cohesion, ownership and source of power for local sustainable development.

The challenge is to find effective solutions for rural areas, especially poverty areas with rich natural and cultural resources, to ensure their distinct historic vernacular landscapes and the important values they embodied can continue to tie the community members together in their pursuit of local sustainable development. The goal of the Dali Village conservation and development project is to tackle the challenge of preserving a living landscape in fumed with cultural memory and traditional practices in a modernizing world. If successful, the model will have

significant impact not only in Guizhou, but also throughout China and other parts of the developing world.

The project an innovative is collaborative effort between multiple partnerships. The government, including national, provincial and county level administrations, is the main governing body for the project, providing funding and directions at different levels; Peking University, one of China's universities, provides research based technical support and oversees the project implementation; and another Chinese NGO, Youcheng, takes project components where the



Cross-disciplinary team conducting household survey with village elder

government resources falls short of and serves as a third party mediator between the government and the village community, particularly when dealing with community-based conservation decisions and small-scale social development initiatives. GHF's involvement in the project is especially unique as its field representative is also the key project manager, commonly appointed and trusted by the partners to coordinate and administer the various resources and follow through on project execution.

In view of the complexity and particular challenges of a living heritage site, one recognizes that the village cultural landscape will continue to evolve and the people who live on the heritage site are the core of its heritage values. Therefore, conservation is more than a physical product, but a place-based process whereby a community determines what elements of its past will continue to hold a place in its future in order to maintain its identity. In addition to the preservation of historic structures, traditional village layout and character defining landscapes, community initiated changes and development are encouraged and guided by a team of cross-disciplinary professionals.

Assessment of the extant architecture, public spaces, roads, water system, landscape and other infrastructure are carried out by architecture and planning teams; professionals of anthropology, historic preservation, and other social sciences background conducted in-depth social demographic survey and documentation of cultural items, focusing on changes in traditional and contemporary social structures, community organization, and state of the traditional crafts and practices. With integration of knowledge of both tangible and intangible components, a grounded and comprehensive conservation and development program can then be formulated. For instance, the drum tower is traditionally the most significant public gathering space in a Dong village; in the case of Dali village, though architecturally it is still the most important landmark, it seem to lost its popular use. The drum tower is classed as a national protected site, and normally there are strict regulations to ensure careful preservation of the original design and historic fabric of the structure. After consultation with the villagers on their dissatisfaction with the current drum tower space, the project team felt that given the significance of the drum tower in traditional Dong social structure, the user experience is just as important as preserving the integrity of the structure. The resultant intervention plan will respect the original structural design as much as possible and yet allows for adaptive changes responding to the villagers' practical needs.

Rehabilitation and improvement of traditional wooden houses is another focal point of the project. Specific problems such as fire safety, lack of sanitary facilities, sewage and drainage, etc. will be dealt with at both macro and micro level. Rather than relying solely on regulation and control, the more effective way to encourage villagers to appreciate their traditional architecture form is to improve on its limitations and help to satisfy their functional

modern living needs. The information obtained from household survey on understanding resident needs will supplement the technical means, while gathered knowledge on village social structure and organization will help to design a fair and grounded resident subsidy program.

Dali Dong village, as many other ethnic minority villages, has undergone a few hundred years of development in its original location. The growth of the village is dependent on the macro natural setting and the villagers well understood the need to maintain a sensible balance between man and nature. The village architecture retains authenticity in the material and texture, design and form, tradition and technique; more importantly; through their continued use. The village also maintains authenticity in its distinct Dong language, festivals, song and dance, medicine, crafts, etc. and through the common memory of nature worship for the mountains and the woods, the pagan worship ritual and ancestral worship. It is especially important to recognize that as a living heritage, the indigenous people and their community is the link to maintaining the authenticity of the extant tangible and intangible cultures, and they will continue to pass this onto the future generations. Fully realizing the complexity and uniqueness of such heritage site, the Guizhou rural cultural landscape conservation and development project is a broad integrative program that aims to provide some answers towards the future of rural heritage in this volatile time and age, and at the same time, hopefully help to preserve a beautiful little village that may otherwise quietly vanished under the name of modern development.

Global Heritage Fund's mission is to protect, preserve and sustain the most significant and endangered cultural heritage sites in the developing world. For more information about GHF's activities and to become a supporter visit: http://globalheritagefund.org/

Kuanghan Li is the field director of Global Heritage Fund's China Heritage Program since 2008. She is a trained conservation architect and holds a master degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. She currently resides in Beijing and is a PhD candidate at Peking University majoring in cultural heritage conservation.

All images in this article are ©Kuanghan Li, Global Heritage Fund

IIC News



2014 IIC Forbes Prize Lecturer Announced

The Organising Committee requests the honour of your presence at the 2014 Forbes Prize Lecture at the forthcoming IIC 2014 Hong Kong Congress Opening Ceremony! The IIC Congress will take place from 22nd to 26th September, 2014.

The Forbes Prize Lecture is one of the most important awards in the field of conservation and the lecture is delivered by a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of conservation. This year IIC's Council has been delighted to announce that Dr. Jixiang Shan (單霽翔博士), Director of the Palace Museum in Beijing, will be delivering the 2014 lecture.

Dr Shan was formerly the Director-General of China's State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) before his appointment as the Palace Museum Director in 2012. Dr Shan graduated from



the School of Architecture of Tsinghua University with a Doctor of Engineering degree in urban planning. Since then Dr Shan has been a pioneer in China's historic preservation movement and has developed his profound research interest in urban planning towards seeking the preservation of cities of historic and cultural importance in an era that has witnessed an ever-accelerating pace of urbanization. In 2005, Dr Shan received an International Leadership Award from the American Planning Association, honouring his outstanding efforts and achievements in the field.

During his term of office at SACH, Dr. Shan has promoted China's heritage preservation development by launching nationwide surveys of heritage sites and setting up a legal framework through the introduction of National Cultural Relics Protection Law. His efforts have led to the successful implementation of many major heritage conservation projects, as well as the partnership with World Monuments Fund to restore the Qianlong Garden and other renovation projects in the Palace Museum. Focusing on the Museum's ancient complex, its unique collections, and on the safety of the visitors, Dr Shan implemented the "Secure Palace Museum" Project in 2012. Looking forward, he is committed to nurturing future museum and conservation professionals, and resolving the limitations on museum development within the Forbidden City with a view to passing down the splendid site to the generations of the next 600 years.



Congress poster listings - including student posters - announced

The full programme of poster presentations at the 2014 Hong Kong Congress - An Unbroken History: Conserving East Asian Works of Art and Heritage is now online on the IIC website. This includes the separate listing for the student posters. Now you can check what is being presented by whom and we very much hope you will be able to join all the presenters at the special poster presentation session at 11.00 am on the Wednesday of the Congress (24th September).

To check out the full programme please go to: https://www.iiconservation.org/congress/2014hongkong/posters
For the student posters click the link: https://www.iiconservation.org/congress/2014hongkong/student-posters

Membership renewal – a reminder

IIC memberships was due for renewal on 1st July 2014, in case you haven't had the chance to renew yet, here's a quick guide and a reminder of the benefits membership will bring.

Please use the IIC web-site to renew: follow the link at the front page here and follow the Renewal instructions on the right hand side We have also sent out a renewal form to all members by post; if you are using the paper form to renew please do not renew on the web-site as well.

IIC achieved a lot in the last year through your efforts and support. We value your involvement very much; we hope that you will renew your membership for 2014 - 2015 and continue to be part of the exciting and developing community that is IIC.

Through you we have:

- 1. Brought online all papers from Studies in Conservation, Reviews in Conservation and IIC Congresses back to 1952, all available from the members' web pages; non-members have to pay for this see the publications pages. Studies in Conservation receives so many excellent submissions that its size has been increased by two issues: it is now published six times a year. So that means you are getting 50% more research and practical experience, 50% more of the latest in heritage science, 50% more in the way of insight and analysis for much less than a 50% increase in your membership fee.
- 2. You can list your own areas of interest and expertise in the field and search for others with the same specialisations and interests quickly and accurately with the improved membership database searching via the IIC web-site. Log in and click to see how this works here
- 3. Are you still a student? We held the second IIC Student and Emerging Conservator Conference in Copenhagen in September 2013, building on the success of the first such event in London in 2011. This was again an opportunity for those joining the profession to find out what the world of conservation is really like, as well as to meet future colleagues and discuss how their own futures could develop. We are already planning the 2015 event, so watch this space!

For the first time IIC will be in Hong Kong - for the 2014 Congress (22nd to 26th September) - see here. This will

be an innovative and informative event, allowing discussion of a wide range of topics related to East Asian heritage in all its forms. It will also give the international community of conservation professionals the chance to meet, network and share their experiences in an exciting venue.

IIC is taking a lead and making a difference: the 2014 Hong Kong Congress will also feature its first integrated dialogue session as part of the programme, focusing on the very current topic of environmental control in relation to heritage conservation - see the 2014 Congress programme here

We intend to expand and develop the help given by the IIC Opportunities Fund to the members it supports see

But IIC cannot continue its efforts alone. Our support of you depends upon your support of us. Renew your membership, be part of the international community that is IIC - and enjoy the benefits too.

About your donations...

Your contributions to the Keck, Brommelle Memorial and Opportunities Funds enable us to reach out to students, conservators and organisations where resources are very limited. Please continue to support these initiatives that aim to improve world-wide conservation. Read more about these funds here

We understand that you have many choices and we know that budgets are tight, but your investment in IIC has contributed so much over the past 60 years of support IIC has given to heritage conservation.

Obituary – Dr Kenzo Toishi

Dr Kenzo Toishi, Honorary Fellow of IIC, passed away on 30 July 2014. He was 100 years old.

He was born on 5 September 1913 in Hiroshima, Japan, studied physics at the National University of Osaka, Osaka, Japan, and joined the National University for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, Japan, in 1952.

He made great advances in conservation science during the early years of IIC. He instituted the radiography of bronze materials using the radio-isotope ⁶⁰Co, and made the radiograph of the great Buddha at Kamakura, which was reported in *Studies in Conservation* vol.10 (1965). He also pioneered humidity control using zeolite in a closed package, a method now widely used for transporting works of art, and for display in sealed showcases throughout the world, and described the deleterious effects on painting materials of alkaline particles discharged from concrete. This study was the precursor of more recent research into the influence of building materials on objects.

After retirement in 1975 he became president of the Japan Institute of Insect Damage to Cultural Properties from 1979 to 1999, and president of the Japan Society for the Conservation of Cultural Property from 1987 to 1999. He was awarded Honorary Fellowship of IIC in May 2004.



Dr Kenzo Toishi receiving his IIC Honorary Felloship

IIC more social than ever

Thanks to an increasing number of you joining IIC's ever expanding social media presence, we are now reaching more people than ever before. Just to give you an idea of the success we're currently enjoying, IIC's Facebook page has recently reached nearly 20000 followers and our new LinkedIn group now has 236 active members.

News in Conservation's digital presence has also been expanded to include a dedicated page on Scoop.it (http://www.scoop.it/t/news-in-conservation), a digital news platform with curated content. In under four months of activity, NiC's Scoop.it page has attracted 38800 views, meaning that our stories, articles and information have been reaching a much wider audience than in the past.

One word for you – participate! Whether you're thinking of submitting an article to NiC or asking a question to the conservation community, follow us and spread the word. Our links are:

Website: https://www.iiconservation.org/

News in Conservation: https://www.iiconservation.org/publications/nic

Scoop.it: http://www.scoop.it/t/news-in-conservation

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/

Want to share something with your colleagues?



Promotional Message

India – the ultimate tour of engineering heritage

Don't miss a unique opportunity to experience India's engineering and cultural highlights in a specially tailored tour.

Jon Baines Tours, which specializes in tailor-made itineraries, has devised a fascinating two-week trip celebrating India's engineering heritage and future.

Travelling through several states in Northern India from 13 to 27 October 2014, this new tour blends culture visits and engineering sites to examine the significant role engineering has



played in India's history, as well as the present and future. The wide-ranging itinerary encompasses automotive and rail engineering, power generation, shipbuilding, food processing and innovative small scale engineering. There will be a visit to an inspirational manufacturing project, The Jaipur Foot, as well as informative presentations and opportunities to experience working engineering projects such as the Delhi Metro, Faridabad Power Plant, Jaipur Dairy and Muruti Suzuki Automotive factory.

A fascinating and immersive partner programme, which delves into the beauty and culture of the country, will tour markets, gardens and sites of architectural interest including the UNESCO world heritage tower Qutab Minar and the medieval gems of Old Delhi.

The tour will include some of India's most breathtaking scenery, such as Le Corbusier's Chandigarh, the Victorian hill station of Shimla, and the Taj Mahal and forts of Agra and Jaipur. Travellers will cross the teeming Howrah Bridge, the busiest cantilever bridge in the world; take a toy train through the mountains; and (subject to timetable) ride the Fairy Queen steam train, the oldest working example in the world.

Alongside a busy and rewarding itinerary, there are opportunities to relax and recharge at a range of beautiful five-star hotels with wonderful facilities and grounds. There is an optional four-night extension (27-31 October) staying at the luxurious Nahargarh Fort, set within the lush Ranthambhore National Park, home to one of the country's largest Bengal Tiger populations.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers is delighted to recommend this brand new tour for anyone with an interest in engineering. Jon Baines Tours, set up in 2007, is renowned for its specialist professional itineraries, and the talents of its eminent tour leaders, who design and accompany its once-in-a-lifetime trips.

For detailed information, a full itinerary and booking:

- http://www.imeche.org/services/personal/imeche-tour-of-india-2014
- http://www.jonbainestours.co.uk/tour/medical-professional-tour?tour=8

More News

The Edward James Foundation Anniversary Scholarship awarded to talented West Dean Student

A talented postgraduate Conservation of Metalwork student at West Dean College, Dorothy Cheng, has been awarded the Edward James Foundation Anniversary Scholarship which will enable her to study for her MA at the College. The Trustees said Dorothy has shown outstanding potential and commitment to her studies and future career in her chosen subject in metalwork conservation. The prestigious scholarship was introduced to celebrate the 50th anniversary in 2014 of the Foundation and is just one measure introduced by the College to help make postgraduate study more accessible.

Dorothy is from Seattle and has completed the West Dean Graduate Diploma in Conservation of Metalwork and will now continue her studies on the Postgraduate Diploma programme from September, before completing her MA at the College. "I am very proud and grateful to have been chosen as The Edward James Foundation Anniversary scholar. Without the scholarship, I wouldn't be able to come back for a second year of study at West Dean, which is necessary for me to become a fully qualified and confident conservator of metal objects, says Dorothy. "This first year has given me a firm foundation in



Dorothy Cheng

conservation techniques, methodology, science, and ethics, but I need the additional bench experience that a second year will provide to put into practice everything I have already learned. West Dean is the best place in the world where I can earn a Postgraduate Diploma or MA degree in metalwork conservation, a discipline about which I am incredibly passionate. After I complete my studies, I hope to be employed as a conservator or restorer in the US, where I live, working on everything from outdoor metal sculptures to antique jewellery."

Director of Education at West Dean College Francine Norris comments: "Edward James, founder of the College, was a strong supporter of young and emerging artists and craftspeople and this new scholarship follows in the tradition he established. With the support from other funders, West Dean is able to offer several scholarships and bursary funding for potential students from both the UK and internationally. Since undergraduate fees were increased recently, we have seen a marked uplift in students needing financial support to continue in Higher Education."

The emphasis for students at West Dean College is time in the studio and at the bench. Conservation students gain hands-on experience working on rare objects from acclaimed collections. Combined with theoretical and scientific study and collaboration across the disciplines, West Dean graduates are sought-after and many go on to work in some of the world's finest institutions, such as the Victoria and Albert Museum, National Maritime Museum, The British Museum and Imperial War Museum.

West Dean College is an independent Higher Education College run by The Edward James Foundation: an educational charity established 50 years ago in 1964. The College offers graduate and postgraduate programmes in Conservation (clocks, ceramics, books, metals and furniture), Visual Arts and Making Stringed Musical Instruments, many of which are validated by the University of Sussex. To find out more visit: www.westdean.org.uk



Call for Papers - News in Conservation

News in Conservation (*NiC*), the e-paper from the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, is looking for contributions in the form of articles, long features, news, and reviews to be published in one of the future issues. Topics of interest can be discussed with the editor and can range from treatment papers to opinion pieces.

NiC enjoys a wider international audience from very diverse backgrounds. Published six times per year in digital format, it is delivered via an email alert to members and freely downloadable from the IIC website in open access.

NiC is an evolving project, one that exists thanks to the support of authors and writers that contribute articles and other informative material guaranteeing a steady flow of relevant content. IIC aims to mould our e- paper to fit our community's evolving interests and preferences; for this reason we invite comments and feedback and we maintain a continuous link with our social media activities.

Since being launched as an electronic publication, NiC has been growing steadily and in the past year has increased its readership and its overall reach. NiC has been praised on various social media networks by comments left by users and often cited as a good example of successful conservation outreach effort.

With continuous help and support, NiC will continue to deliver conservation news to the world of conservation, aiming to grow and reach further afield.

If you want to contribute please contact Barbara Borghese news@iiconservation.org

To download a free issue visit: https://www.iiconservation.org/publications/nic

What's on + NiC's List

Call for papers

Call for participants - Nordic Conservation PhD Student Colloquium

24-25 November 2014

School of Conservation, the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen

For further information contact: Jane Richter, School of Conservation, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art

Email: jr@kadk.dk

Conference on the conservation of folk and outsider art - "Divine Disorder: Folk and Outsider Art Conference"

February 24-26, 2015
Atlanta and Summerville, Georgia
Deadline for abstracts: 8 September 2014
For further information visit:
http://ncptt.nps.gov/blog/divine-disorder-2015/

The Ulrich Schiessl PhD Colloquium - Call for Papers

24-25 November, 2014 Dresden, Germany

Deadline for abstracts: Friday, 12 September, 2014

For further information visit:

https://www.iiconservation.org/node/5078

ICFA 2014 Annual Conference: New and Old Outfittings in the Fine Arts Museums

2-7 November, 2014 Palermo, Italy

Deadline: Monday, 15 September, 2014

For further information visit:

https://www.iiconservation.org/node/5077

A comprehensive list of events taking place around the world, in and around the field of conservation. Write to news@iiconservation.org if you wish to add your event

Conferences/Seminars

ICOM-CC 17th Triennial Conference : Building Strong Culture through Conservation

15-19 September, 2014
Melbourne, Australia
For further information visit: www.icom-cc2014.org/default.aspx

Interdisciplinary Studies of Ancient Materials from the Mediterranean

17-19 September, 2014 University of Cyprus, Cyprus For further information about this event visit: http://narnia-itn.eu/

The best in Heritage

25-27 September 2014
Dubrovnik, Croatia
For further information about this event visit: http://www.thebestinheritage.com/

Symposium Technical Drawings and their Reproductions 2014.

6-7 October, 2014
The Hague
For further information about this event visit: http://www.restauratoren.nl

Authenticity in the Conservation of Historic Houses and Palace-Museums

7-11 October, 2014 France Conference website:

bttee //

https://www.weezevent.com/conference-icomdemhist-arre-2

Euromed 2014 – International Conference on Cultural Heritage

3-8 November 2014
Limassol, Cyprus
For further information about this event visit:
http://www.culturalheritage2014.eu/

18th ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium: Heritage and Landscape as Human Values

10-14 November, 2014
Florence, Italy
For further information about this event visit:
www.icomos.org

Current Research in Photography

18-20 November, 2014
St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
For further information about this event visit:
www.iiconservation.org/node/4457

Preserving Archaeological Remains in Situ (PARIS 5)

12- 18 April, 2015 Kreuzlingen, Switzerland For further information about this event visit: www.paris5.tg.ch

ICON Paintings Group Conference: 'Modern Conservation: What's new?'

10 October, 2014
The Wallace Collection, London, UK
For further information about this event visit: https://www.iiconservation.org/node/4497

18th ICOMOS General: Heritage and Landscape as Human Values

10-14 November, 2014
Florence, Italy
For further information about this event visit:
www.icomos.org

Current Research in Photography

18-20 November, 2014 St. Petersburg, Russian Federation For further information about this event visit: www.iiconservation.org/node/4457

Preserving Archaeological Remains in Situ (PARIS 5)

12- 18 April, 2015 Kreuzlingen, Switzerland For further information about this event visit: www.paris5.tg.ch

Courses/Workshops

Workshop: Collection Risk Assessment and Management Training

8 September, 2014 Melbourne, Australia For further information about this event visit: https://www.iiconservation.org/node/5090

Ligatus Summer School on historic bookbinding

22 September- 10 October, 2014
Ljubljana, Slovenia
For further information about this event visit:
www.ligatus.org.uk/summerschool

Workshop on Porcupine Quill Embroidery - Quillworkshop 2014

10-11 October, 2014
Berlin, Germany
For further information about this event visit: https://www.iiconservation.org/node/4760

Masterclass on Plastics

13-17 October, 2014
The Netherlands
For further information about this event visit:
http://www.uva.nl/en/disciplines/conservation-and-restoration

Course on Structure and Mechanics of Paintings and Painted Materials

22 - 24 October, 2014 Amsterdam For further information about this event visit: https://www.iiconservation.org/node/4576

For more information about conferences and courses see the IIC website: www.iiconservation.org