

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM  
**CONTEMPORARY**  
**ART: WHO CARES?**  
9 – 11 JUNE 2010  
ROYAL TROPICAL INSTITUTE, AMSTERDAM

### Networking session summary

Title	Towards a Network for PhD and Postdoctoral Researchers in the Field of Contemporary Art Conservation
Date, time	Thursday 10th June, 16:00-17:30
Organisation	Vivian van Saaze, Maastricht University Ariane Noël de Tilly, University of Amsterdam

The primary goal of the meeting between PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers was to get to know each other and each other's research interests as well as investigate the feasibility of creating a more structural international network for PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers working in the field of contemporary art conservation.

The meeting was a great success and a new network for PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers was established at the spot. More than forty researchers actively participated in the session. Others informed the organisers that they were interested in joining the network, but could not be present because they had to attend another network-session or could not attend the symposium altogether. Prior to the meeting, the participants were sent the abstracts of each other's research which already gave a good impression of what people are working on.

After a brief introduction during which the organisers stated why they thought a network would be fruitful, the participants were divided in five groups in order to discuss the future of the network and which form(s) they would like it to take. They were asked to answer the four following questions over half an hour:

1. What would you like to gain from the network?
2. Which topics would you like to discuss in upcoming meetings of the network?
3. Would you be interested in discussing work-in-progress through workshops?
4. Would you be prepared / interested in participating in the network? If so, how?

A plenary discussion took place after the small group discussion as a volunteer from each group was asked to report the outcome of their group discussion. The expectations from the participants were varied, but there was an overall agreement that the network should essentially be a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences among researchers. Due to the international, multidisciplinary, and often pioneering character of conservation research many researchers work in relatively isolated circumstances. During the session it became clear that there is a strong urge amongst individual researchers to enhance the exchange of ideas and experiences between fellow researchers. Participants expressed the wish to meet again and suggested to organize a next network-meeting at the same time of a major symposium that many of us are likely to attend, such as ICOMCC. Also other hosting opportunities for future network-meetings were suggested as well as several topics to discuss among each other.

During the meeting it was agreed upon that the network would need a virtual platform providing relevant information such as: research abstracts and contact information of all network-participants, an online discussion forum, information on training possibilities, where the major conferences are taking place, an inventory of journals to submit articles, and so on. The first step will be to establish this virtual platform, which we plan to do over the summer 2010. The platform is kindly hosted by the International Network for the Conservation of Contemporary Art (INCCA).

All participants will be informed on future network-activities. For more information on the network please contact: [Vivian.vansaaze@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:Vivian.vansaaze@maastrichtuniversity.nl) or [a.noeldetilly@uva.nl](mailto:a.noeldetilly@uva.nl)

[July 6th 2010, Ariane Noël de Tilly & Vivian van Saaze]