

Summary of the workshop 'recording the ephemeral'

The aim of this workshop was to bring together conservators of Contemporary Art and find ways to document a fake installation based on light, sound and movement. The workshop was divided in a theoretical introduction and a hands-on part where workshop participants were asked to develop and discuss documentation strategies feasible in the daily routine. With so many professionals interested in the topic a fruitful cooperation was aimed to gather as much knowledge and experience as possible.

30 participants were invited to document the fake installation *Movimento* by Martin Herzbe¹, which included two light sources, an audio source and a moving source. Franziska Herzog introduced the historic and artistic aspects of the work. Martin Häberle gave an insight in technical issues and display aspects. Reinhard Bek shared his thoughts as to the different 'modes' of the work and the challenges for documentation.

For the hands-on part five groups were formed to document and finally present the artwork as to the following aspects:

- Description/Condition
- Display
- Maintenance
- Audio/Photo/Video
- Pre-Acquisition.

Different tools (such as UV-/ light-/speed-/power-meter, video/photo-camera and sound recorder) and theoretical background information (such as technical data sheets and checklists) were provided. Franziska additionally provided some illuminants currently available on the market for participants to test and compare (type, design, colour temperature) and to familiarize themselves with the new EU-regulations.

Conclusion: The presentations by each group were impressive and diverse highlighting various aspects of the documentation of *Movimento*. The participants contributed lively to the discussion and asked many questions. One participant mentioned in the end how interesting it was to learn that an installation looking rather simple could turn out being rather complex.

¹ The name of the organizers are **Martin** Häberle, Franziska **Herzog** and Reinhard **Bek**