

In contemporary art, the life span of the artworks has been shortening radically since the beginning of the 20th century, with the use of materials of several types and provenances. Artists are seduced by their expressive and communicational nature and not by their durability. Ethnographic assets, in which ritual and symbolic functions are central, pose this problem since the first collections. However, in both cases the frailty of the works, or their intended reduced life span, come into conflict with the need to preserve everything, so characteristic of our times.

The aim of this meeting is to debate the philosophical issues related to contemporary art and ethnographic assets, discussing values that are difficult to balance in the task of preservation. This is the case of material values versus conceptual, ritual, or aesthetic values. We will also discuss issues of originality and authenticity and their relation with the historic and cultural values of objects, artist's intention, intangibility, social function and other topics. The meeting will also address alternative processes of conservation within the scope of the museum as well as the profile of conservators, who are committed to a task that surpasses the domain of materiality and requires working with new media and documentation.

Scientific commission

Isabel Raposo Magalhães (Instituto dos Museus e da Conservação)
Jean François Chougnat (Museu Colecção Berardo)
Joaquim Pais de Brito (Museu Nacional de Etnologia)
Raquel Henriques da Silva (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, FCSH)
Rita Macedo (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, FCT)

Executive commission

Isabel Raposo Magalhães (Instituto dos Museus e da Conservação)
Isabel Saraiva (Fundação Oriente)
Jean François Chougnat (Museu Colecção Berardo)
Joaquim Pais de Brito (Museu Nacional de Etnologia)
Rita Macedo (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, FCT)
Rodrigo Bettencourt da Câmara

Limit date for registration:
29 October 2008

Registration fee:
60 € with 50 % discount for students

Working languages:
Portuguese and English
(*simultaneous translation available*)

Organization:
Fundação Oriente, Instituto dos Museus e da Conservação, Museu Colecção Berardo and Universidade Nova de Lisboa

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DOS MUSEUS
E DA CONSERVAÇÃO



MUSEU COLECÇÃO BERARDO
ARTE MODERNA E CONTEMPORÂNEA



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EPHEMERAL ART AND CONSERVATION

The paradigm of
contemporary art
and ethnographic
objects

6 and 7 November 2008

Auditorium of the
MUSEU DO ORIENTE

Alberto Carneiro: Um campo depois da colheita para deleite estético do nosso corpo, 1973-1976. Palha de trigo, centeio e azevém. Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, 1991.

Registration form

Name	_____	Payment	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque
Address	_____	Amount	_____
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Postal code	_____	Museu do Oriente	
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PROGRAMME

6 November 2008

- 9.30 Registration
10.00 Opening session

First panel – Beyond the object

Moderator: **Jean François Chougnat**
(Museu Colecção Berardo)

- 10.15 **Joaquim Pais de Brito** (Museu Nacional de Etnologia)
The ephemeral and the search for perenity
- 10.45 **Antonio Rava** (University of Turin)
Ephemeral and transitory art, theoretic implications for replications and conservation in the contemporary art field
- 11.15 Debate
- 11.40 Coffee break
- 12.00 Case studies
Rodrigo Bettencourt da Câmara
The survival of the ephemeral: from Noronha da Costa to Larry Bell
Elsa Murta (Instituto dos Museus e da Conservação)
3 improbable works to be conserved
- 12.30 Debate
- 13.00 Lunch

Second panel – Around memory

Moderator: **Isabel Raposo Magalhães**
(Instituto dos Museus e da Conservação)

- 14.30 **Marie de Bruggerolle** (École Nationale des Beaux Arts de Lyon et de Montpellier)
The object after action: fetish, relique, junk? About the transmission of immateriality
- 15.00 **Tatja Scholte** (The Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage – Instituut Collectie Nederland)
Couleur locale. A comparative study into the conservation of site-related works of art (ethnographic and contemporary)
- 15.30 Debate
- 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.20 Case studies
Rita Macedo (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, FCT)
From aesthetics to ethics of the ephemeral. The mountain of flowers
Lina Falcão (Skin and leather conservator)
From shadow to matter: conservation of Chinese puppets of the Kwok On collection

Ana Vasconcelos (Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian)
The lighthouse keeper syndrome – notes on conservation (provisional title)

Joana Amaral (Museu Nacional de Etnologia)
Ants, sponge cake and stones: boundaries of intervention

17.20 Debate

7 November 2008

Third panel – The possible Eternity

Moderator: **Joaquim Pais de Brito**
(Museu Nacional de Etnologia)

- 10.00 **Jacques Pimpaneau** (INALCO)
What to do with ethnographic objects: to collect, to preserve, to restore, to show
- 10.30 **Yve-Alain Bois** (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton)
Time exposure
- 11.00 Debate
- 11.20 Coffee break
- 11.40 Case studies
João Paulo Dias (Instituto dos Museus e da Conservação)
Conservation of a Chinese folk work of art: the implications of its insertion in the museum environment
Patrícia Falcão (Icon/Tate Intern for Time-based Media Conservation)
Between a rock and a hard place – themes in the conservation of media art
Lúcia Almeida Matos (Faculdade de Belas Artes da Universidade do Porto)
The permanent nature of the ephemeral: strategies for survival
- 12.40 Debate
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 **Round table**
Moderator: **Raquel Henriques da Silva** (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
Pedro Cabrita Reis*
João Fernandes (Serralves)*
Michel Colardelle*
Pedro Lapa (Museu do Chiado)*
- 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.30 Debate
- 17.00 Closing

* To be confirmed