



The structure and mechanics of canvas paintings

By Laura Fuster-López and Cecil Krarup Andersen

Overview

This course provides a basic understanding of structural and mechanical properties of materials that are relevant for paintings and how these properties change with different relative humidity and temperature. This enables improved risk assessment when deciding on climate and conservation methods for simple materials and composites. An overview of the relevant research is provided and the effects of conservation evaluated. The core of the course is based on Marion F. Mecklenburg's work as well as the lecturers' own research and both lecturers have extensive experience in teaching conservation students as well as post graduate conservators. They have both worked closely with Mecklenburg and have assisted him teaching his course on mechanics and structure in cultural heritage materials both at the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (Spain) and the School of Conservation (Denmark) respectively.

Instructors

Laura Fuster-López

Is Professor in the Department of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage at the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (UPV), Spain. She graduated from UPV in Fine Arts (Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage) in 1999. In 2006 she received a PhD in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage after completing an internship at the Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education under the supervision of Dr. Mecklenburg and focused on the study of the structural and dimensional behavior of filling materials for easel paintings. Her current research focuses on the mechanical and dimensional properties of cultural materials as well as environmental effects on their stability and preservation.

Cecil Krarup Andersen

Is assistant Professor at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts - Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation (KADK). She worked as a painting conservator at the Statens Museum for Kunst (SMK) in Copenhagen Denmark. She graduated from KADK, School of Conservation in Copenhagen in 2005 and received her PhD in structure and mechanics of lined paintings in 2013 from KADK's School of Conservation and CATS, Centre for Art Technological Studies and Conservation. She is currently working as a paintings conservator at SMK, where she continues her focus on mechanics, environment and structural treatments of paintings.



Dates

Three full time days: 25, 26 and 27 October 2017 from 09:00 till 17:00.

Programme (with reservation)

Day 1: Mechanical properties of paints, primers and carriers

Morning:

- Introduction
- Material science –and the three step approach to conservation.
- The response of the materials to change in T and RH (wood, linen, rabbit-skin glue, sturgeon glue and gelatin, oil, alkyd and acrylic paints).

Afternoon:

- The three step approach in praxis. Discussions and presentations in groups.

Day 2: Structural properties of paints, primers and carriers

Morning:

- The stress-strain curve and the definition of the mechanical properties.
- Mechanical properties of: wood, linen, rabbit glue, sturgeon glue and gelatin, oil, alkyd and acrylic paints.
- The relationship between the mechanical properties and dimensional response of materials.
- The consequences if materials with different structural properties are combined in a legacy object. What are the implications for changes in RH and T?.
- Other failure mechanisms: Causes for degradation far beyond RH and T.

Afternoon

- The choice of materials. Discussions based on case studies

Day 3: Changing structure and mechanics of objects through conservation

Morning:

- Adding lining materials.
- The structural role of adhesives and the effects of solvents.
- The selection of filling materials.

Afternoon:

- The choice of methods. Discussions based on case studies.

Venue

Ateliergebouw, Hobbemastraat 22 in Amsterdam. The Ateliergebouw is situated next to the Rijksmuseum.



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Programme Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage

Costs

We offer this course at the reduced price of € 650,00. Participants are responsible for all evening meals, accommodation and transportation. Lunches will be provided in the restaurant of the Ateliergebouw.

Participants

Number of Participants: maximum 20.

Registration is open to restorers, conservation scientists and related professionals practicing within the field.

Language

The course will be given in English. Participants are advised that a basic knowledge of scientific terms in English is required.

Deadline for application

The deadline for application is 1th September 2017. On this date we will make the decision whether or not to proceed with organizing this workshop (depending on the number of enrolments for the course). Participants will be informed at this date or sooner.

How to apply

Please send a signed application form by mail or e-mail, addresses are mentioned on the attached registration form. The Programme Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage aims to compose a list of participants of whom the level matches each other's as much as possible. For that reason, we would like to receive your resume.

Once you have registered you will receive a confirmation plus information for payment. Your registration is final when we have received the course fee.

Contact

Please contact Angèle Goossens (coordinator continuing education) or Nienke Besijn (secretariat continuing education) by e-mail pe-CenR@uva.nl or telephone +31 (0)20 525 2015 with any further queries.