

Display and degradation of light-sensitive material

Instructor: Christel Pesme

13-15 October 2014
Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

The Icon Book & Paper Group Co-operative Training Register is delighted to present its next workshop in the 2014 programme, generously supported by the Clare Hampson Fund and the University of Cambridge Museums.

Overview. Through a combination of lectures and practical sessions the workshop will explore preventive conservation issues with regard to the display of light sensitive material. The practical sessions will include the use of a spectrophotometer and portable microfader unit.

Workshop attendees will first explore the interaction between vision, matter, and light followed by an introduction to the use of colour science tools to measure and characterise coloured surfaces. Special focus will be given to selecting the best measuring instrument for characterising and monitoring specific surface attributes (colour, gloss). Subsequent instruction will focus on the mechanisms behind light-induced degradation and strategies to mitigate or avoid such degradation. The workshop will show tools and means to design appropriate lighting plans from assessing light sensitivity to controlling exposure to light and documenting colour changes.

Instructor Biography. Christel Pesme received a BA in Biochemistry from Pierre-and-Marie Curie University (Paris, France), an MA in Art History and an MA in Paper Conservation from Pantheon-Sorbonne University (Paris, France). Currently she is writing a doctoral thesis in Art History on ethical issues associated with conservation of contemporary art.

Over the past ten years, her research interests have centred on the development of museum lighting best practice for displaying sensitive collections. While working as a scientist at the Getty Conservation Institute (Los Angeles, USA), she routinely used microfading technology in order to assess light sensitivity of objects from both the J. Paul Getty Museum and Getty Research Institute collections. As a paper conservator at the Getty, she trained her fellow conservators in the use of portable microfader units to inform the design of appropriate lighting policy for their collections. Since summer 2013, she has been working in Basel (Switzerland) as a private paper conservator and as a consultant for preventive conservation issues related to museum lighting.

The workshop is limited to 11 participants. The cost of this three-day course, including refreshments, is £160 for Icon members and £185 for non-members. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

To reserve a place, please email: iconbgpctr@gmail.com with the subject line 'Workshop Registration'.

For any enquiries please contact Françoise Richard: fr.conservation@gmail.com